

SAVAGE OR HOGAN - WHO'S BETTER?

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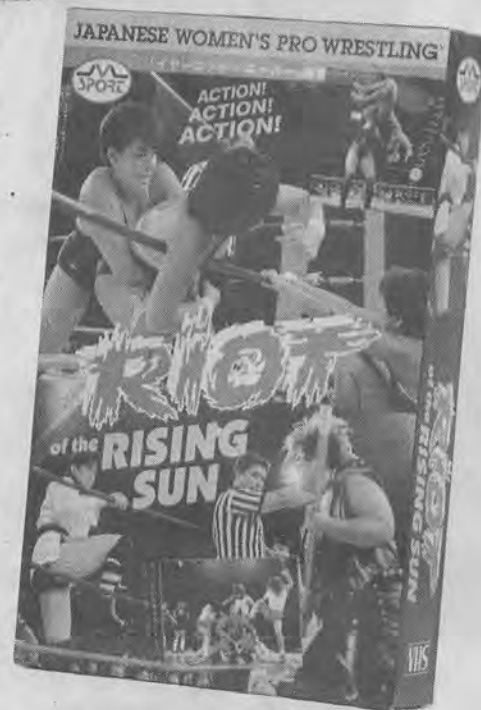
(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
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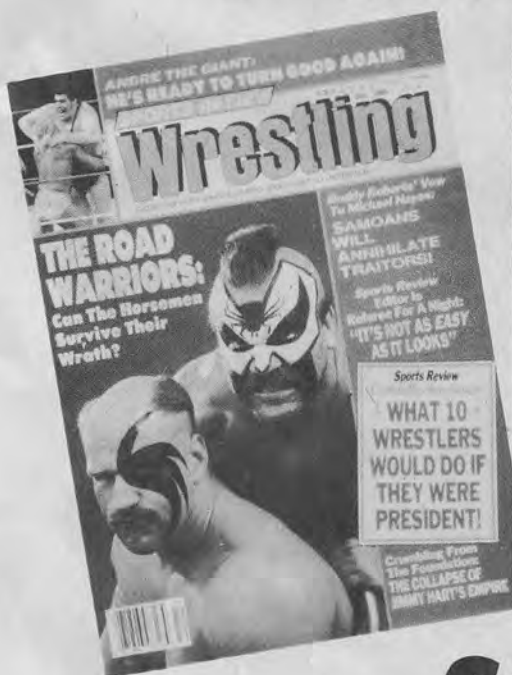


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A SAVAGE '89

After reading your cover story in the February 1989 issue ("Wrestling's Top Champions: What '89 Has In Store For Them"), I came to the conclusion that 1989 will be an excellent year for Randy Savage.

I disagree with the fans and writers who predict a Savage-Hulk Hogan

JUST SAY HOOOOOOOO!

The story "Hacksaw Duggan's Message To America's Youth: 'Just Say Hooooooo!'" in your February 1989 issue really captured the essence of the "Hacksaw" and what he means to all his fans. We all know that all we have to do is yell "Hooooooo!" and Hacksaw will do his best to fight off the evil



WWF World champion Randy Savage will have a great 1989, and he will not feud with Hulk Hogan. That's the opinion of reader Randy Bunt, who thinks Savage's toughest challenges in '89 will come from Bad News Brown, Curt Hennig, and Andre the Giant.

feud in 1989. I believe the Megapowers will remain friends, because I think Hogan will spend less time wrestling and more time acting on the silver screen. Savage's toughest challenges in 1989 will come from Andre the Giant, Curt Hennig, and Bad News Brown.

Savage, however, being the superb athlete he is, will gracefully overcome these men and other challengers. His future looks extremely bright. Randy Savage will remain champion well into the 1990s!

RANDY BUNT
San Diego

element that threatens this great sport.

I'll admit that Duggan sometimes looks silly, but the truth is he's one of the most intelligent men in the sport. He's been down sometimes, and I know he was arrested once, but he always seems to bounce back. He has something inside that most wrestlers only wish they had. Call it intestinal fortitude, but I think it's much more than that. He was bred to win and never give up—and he never does.

That's the thing I like best about Duggan. He teaches us that no matter how far down you are, you can always

come back. Duggan came back, even after the WWF suspended him, and look at him now! I don't think there's a better example for everyone in all of wrestling.

BELINDA NICHOLS
Boston

SUPERCLASH WAS SUPER

Thanks for a great preview of SuperClash III ("AWA/World Class/CWA Spectacular: Exclusive Preview Of SuperClash III," January 1989). It really set the stage for one of the finest evenings of wrestling I've ever seen.

I also have to give you guys credit for practically ignoring the women's street-fight battle royal. That was an absolute insult to this great sport! The

object of a wrestling match shouldn't be tearing off your opponent's clothes. These women want to be respected as professionals, but they're certainly not helping their cause when they participate in such a sham!

For my money, the best match of the card was the Wahoo McDaniel-Manny Fernandez Indian strap match. McDaniel has never lost one of these, but Fernandez certainly took him to the limit. The sight of those guys bleeding in this match was unforgettable. Talk about giving your all!

It would be great to see all of the federations—and I mean the NWA and WWF, too!—get together for SuperClash IV. Then we could truly have one world champion.

IRWIN COHEN
Garden City, NY



Manny Fernandez drags Wahoo McDaniel to the turnbuckle during their strap match at SuperClash III, which reader Irwin Cohen called one of the best cards of the year.

SIMMONS DESERVES MORE

Ron Simmons is one of the toughest and most skilled wrestlers in the NWA. He's also one of the best black athletes in the sport. He was an all-America football player and a former Florida heavyweight champion. He's extremely popular with the fans because of his rugged, no-nonsense style of wrestling.

Since coming to the NWA, however, he has not received any shots at NWA World champion Ric Flair, U.S. champion Barry Windham, or the TV championship. He's been repeatedly



Ron Simmons headlocks Mike Rotundo. Reader Scott Mikeljohn believes Simmons should be getting title shots because he's one of the finest wrestlers in the NWA.

overlooked in favor of men like Sting, Steve Williams, Lex Luger, and Dusty Rhodes. The only title shot the NWA gave him was in tandem with Eddie Gilbert in a tournament for the U.S. tag title, knowing they had no chance of beating the more experienced Fantastics.

I'm not saying the NWA is prejudiced, but Mr. Simmons deserves better treatment. If the NWA isn't careful, it will lose one of its most popular wrestlers to another federation. That would be a crying shame.

SCOTT MIKELJOHN
Brooklyn, NY
(Continued on page 44)

THE TATTLER

NEW YORK, NY: Elizabeth, long-time manager of WWF World champion Randy Savage, is contemplating retirement. The beautiful manager is apparently disturbed over the friction she caused between Savage and Hulk Hogan, and is also concerned that her continued presence at ringside poses a danger to herself.

Recently at New York's Madison Square Garden, Bad News Brown chased Elizabeth several times during a match against Savage. Brown was pinned by Savage, then slugged Savage with a garbage can. "She's concerned that it could've been her," a source told "The Tattler."



BAD NEWS BROWN PURSUES ELIZABETH

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Informed sources also told "The Tattler" that Elizabeth is tired of the constant travel and pressure connected with being manager of the World champion. She has reportedly fielded many offers from modeling agencies and movie producers, several of which might prove quite enticing.

"She has movie-star looks and immediate name value," Hollywood producer Alan Janz said. "She's gotten all she can out of wrestling. Now it's time for the big bucks. She could be bigger than Vanna White!"

Understandably, Savage is upset about the prospect of losing his manager. Savage and Elizabeth have reportedly discussed the situation

(Continued on page 52)

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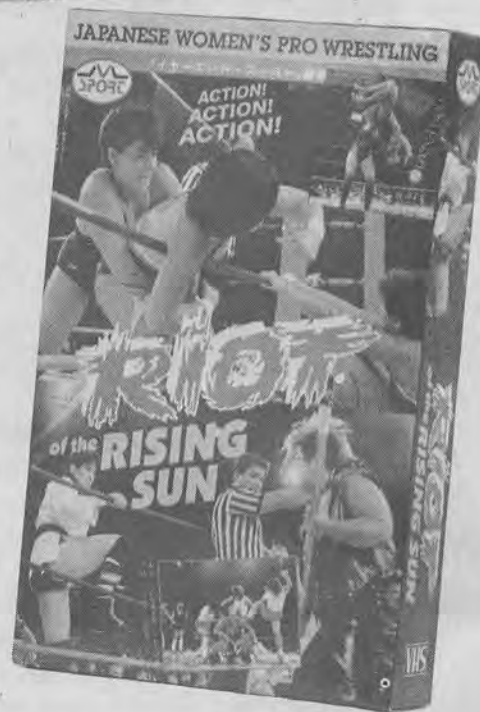
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STRAIGHT *talk* with

EDDIE ELLNER



JERRY LAWLER VS. RIC FLAIR

Lies Father Told Us: in this case, "**Father Time**" **Verne Gagne**. To hype **SuperClash III**, the AWA represented their main event, a belt vs. belt encounter between AWA World champion **Jerry Lawler** and World Class champion **Kerry Von Erich**, as featuring the only two men who'd defeated **Hulk Hogan**, **Randy Savage**, and **Ric Flair**. Certainly a major achievement, worthy of hype even by the AWA's indecent standards.

However, in their hungering for publicity, the AWA overlooked one small consideration: the truth. Von Erich has *never* been in the same ring with either Hogan or Savage. Lawler faced Flair several times, but doesn't own a conclusive victory. Furthermore, the federation would have us believe

the only men Lawler and Von Erich hadn't beaten were each other, a bit of deception certain to add several inches to the nose of AWA President **Stanley "Woodpecker's Dream" Blackburn**. The two, in fact,



STANLEY BLACKBURN

had been trading victories for months before **SuperClash**. Fans may take solace in the fact that despite the lies, only about 1,700 fans showed up at Chicago's UIC Pavilion to watch Lawler add Von Erich's WCCW belt to his collection. **John Lennon** was

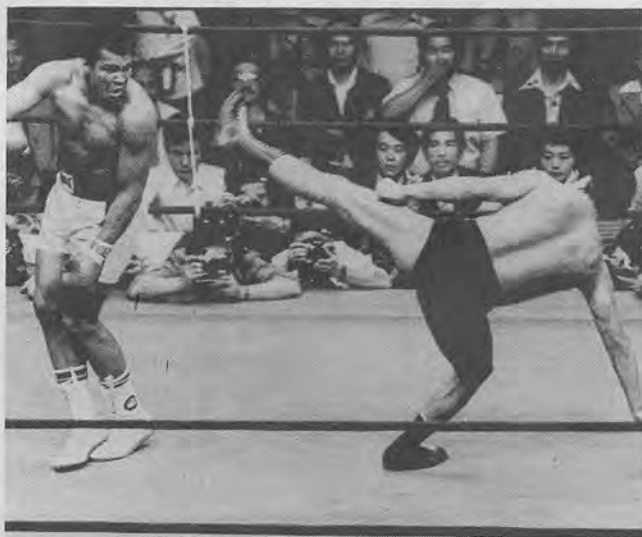
right: Instant karma's *gonna* get you.

•
No doubt it happened to you recently. Didn't **Aunt Ethel**, crazed on eggnog, try to breakdance at the family Christmas party? Did you see heavy metal maven/rumored musician **Don Dokken** join actor/bartender **Tom Cruise** on the "pro" auto racing circuit? Only in America will people pay to watch professionals engage in fields other than the ones in which they specialize. Pro wrestling's equivalent of the **Battle Of The Network Stars** happened New Year's Day at The Omni in Atlanta. Noted non-wrestler **Jim Cornette** outlasted a field of other non-wrestlers to capture the \$10,000 manager's battle royal. Watching the

match provided the same kind of perverse amusement as the infamous **Muhammad Ali** vs. **Antonio Inoki** embarrassm—er, contest.

When I vowed last month never to waste valuable column space on frivolous personal matters, I didn't expect a call after five years from noted nutritionist/writer/dazzling angel of beauty **Janis Jibrin**. Repeat after me: I will not fall in love again . . . I will not fall in love again . . .

Speaking of fogs, how long before entertainment impressario **Vince McMahon**, taking his cue from the NFL, promotes a fog match? Given the quality of WWF matches lately, I know lots of fans who would pay dearly *not* to see some of the action.



MUHAMMAD ALI VS. ANTONIO INOKI



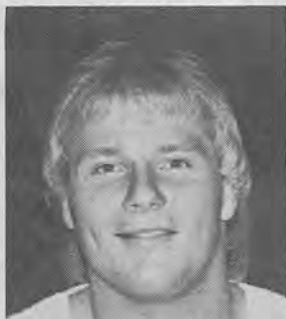
RICK MARTEL

It would be against all odds if **Rick (Against All Odds) Martel's** comeback resulted in anything more than a return trip to the hospital.

MAD magazine's most recent spoof of professional wrestling (February 1989 issue) fell short of the mark. With such outrageous material to work with, you'd think those creative lunatics would be funnier.

Dustin Hoffman's portrayal of **Tom Cruise's** autistic brother in *Rain Man* guarantees him another Academy Award. But if it was realism the producers sought, don't you think **Lord Al Hays** would have better filled the role?

From which parent did **David Sammartino** inherit his blond locks? Last time I saw the **Son**



DAVID SAMMARTINO

of **Bruno**, he bore an uncanny resemblance to **Baby Godzilla**. Sporting a blond mop top, and with real muscles replacing his baby fat, David threatens to make everyone forget **Tommy (Still Kicking Around) Rich**.

Hair seems to be on everyone's minds. Jojoba oil and mayonnaise appear to be the mysterious substances responsible for **Bill Apter's** miraculous



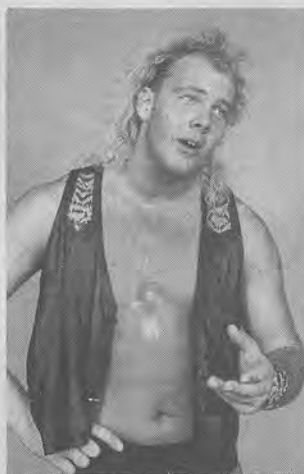
BILL APTER

scalp comeback. This month's follicle count reveals 963 of the little devils splayed out in funny directions—up 48 from last month!

News Item: Thousands of pimply adolescents mourn the passing of **The Rock n' Roll Express** when they are declared brain dead by



THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS



KENDALL WINDHAM & DUSTIN RHODES

the North Carolina state medical examiner.

What's next? So glad you asked. A few more hearty meals and **Barf Man** will be ready to make his WWF debut. The WWF federation will reportedly take advantage of their newest member and his electrifying finishing maneuver, the atomic pukedrop, by marketing Barf Man paperweights. *Shake 'em up and watch the big chunks fly!* Given their mindset, WWF fans will react as they always have when offered reconstituted garbage: gobble it up and beg for more.

In last month's *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, I issued a challenge to the

Texas Cowpies, Dustin Rhodes and/or Kendall Windham, to meet me in a wrestling match at a location of their choosing. Is anyone surprised that they've ignored my offer—even though *PWI* is delivered right into their homes each month? I'm still here, Cowpies, just waiting to scrape you off the bottom of my sneaker.

Believe it or not, I'm actually soliciting mail. Not that I'll print any letters, mind you, but I'm always interested in gauging the quality of the nation's mental health clinics. If you're allowed to play with sharp objects, grab a pen and write me a letter. Then mail it to: "Straight Talk," Box 48, Rockville Center, NY 11571.

'Til next month.

[Editor's note: Any relationship between the views of Eddie Ellner and those of the editorial board of this magazine—or anyone else who regularly engages in clear thinking—is absolutely, positively, unequivocally coincidental.] □

LOCKER ROOM

Confidential

with Bill Apter

LEX LUGER DOESN'T have what it takes to be NWA World champion.

I'm a member of the not-too-exclusive club that believed Luger would be NWA World champion by this time, but now I have to admit: We were all wrong.

Luger, of course, had us all fooled. He has the size, the strength, the ability, and the determination necessary to rise to the top. As a rookie in Florida, he was Southern champ three times and took World champ Ric Flair to the limit on numerous occasions. It only figured that with a little seasoning and experience, Luger would become unbeatable.

Unfortunately, none of us realized that Luger lacks that little something inside—I don't know *what* it is—that sets Flair apart from the rest. Flair may not always conduct himself like a champion, but he knows how belts are won and lost. His words after the Starrcade '88 match against Luger really said it all.

"Maybe I haven't always played it straight, but to me, there are no rules," Flair said. "This game is a matter of survival, and I've always done everything I could to survive and keep that belt in my hands. I play by Ric Flair's rules, nobody else's. You may not like it, but that's the way it is and that's the way it will always be."

Moments earlier, Flair made the stunning announcement that figures to end Luger's championship dream, at least for the near future. Flair told a nationwide pay-per-view audience that Luger would never receive another title match.



Lex Luger poses for the crowd. Perhaps if Luger had spent less time flexing at Starrcade '88, he'd be NWA World champion now. That's the opinion of Senior Editor Bill Apter, who photographed the championship match.

"You had your chance," Flair said, "and you blew it. How does it feel?"

Well, Lex, how *does* it feel? Flair hit the nail right on the head: You blew it. I was at ringside at The Scope in Norfolk, Virginia, photographing the match for *Sports Review Wrestling*, and I couldn't believe what I was seeing. At least four times, Luger had Flair in position for a pin—only to waste his time posing for the crowd. When the match ended at 30:58 and Flair was the winner on a controversial pin (his feet were on the ropes), Luger had no one to blame but himself.

Of course, he blamed everyone else.

"If the ref [Tommy Young] had done his job and stopped the match when Flair hit me with the steel chair, I'd be champion right now," Luger said, citing the stipu-

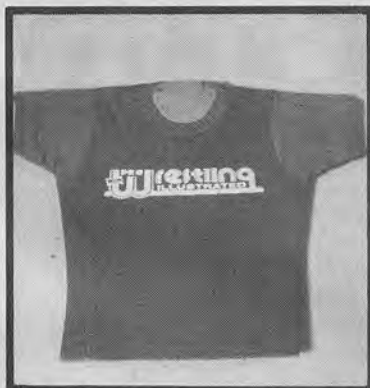
lation that the title could change hands on a disqualification. "And if he *didn't* hit me with the chair, my knee wouldn't have given out and he *never* would've gotten out of that backbreaker. Then, to make matters worse, he had his feet on the ropes for the pin! Flair cheated and Young blew it."

It's interesting how Luger can always find someone else to blame. I've never heard an excuse from Flair, simply because he always finds a way to win. Luger, on the other hand, always finds a way to lose. He's come so close to dethroning Flair, but he just can't do it. Why? Because he's not made of championship material.

Luger had Flair covered for no fewer than 10 two-counts in the match; the referee's hand never came down for the third time. Af-

(Continued on page 50)

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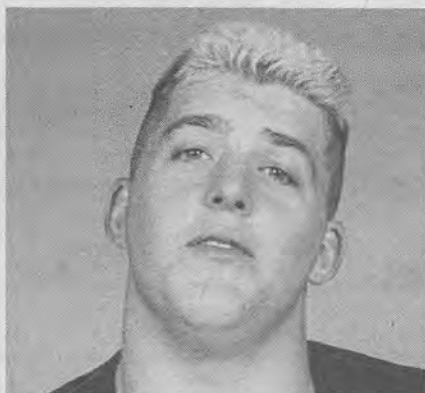
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ASK THE STARS
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THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"Has being the relative of a wrestling star affected your career?"

**Submitted by:
Lisa Boniface
Tampa, FL**



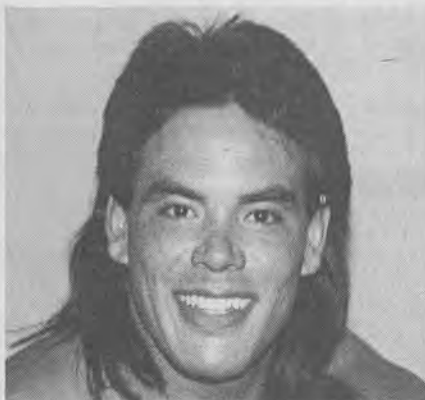
DUSTIN RHODES

"Having Dusty Rhodes for a father is the biggest blessing a young wrestler could hope for. He's been instrumental in my training and development, and he was especially helpful as I entered the NWA. I'm proud to say that he's my biggest fan and my biggest inspiration. If I turn out to be half the wrestler he is, then my career goals will have been fulfilled—in *spades*."



BRUCE HART

"I think being a member of a wrestling family is really a lot of fun. Whenever our family gets together for a holiday or an outing, all of the Hart brothers *always* tease each other about their careers. But I think it's helpful, too. Trying to keep up with all of those guys creates a sense of healthy competition that helps keep me sharp. How can I let my own brothers down?"



VIC STEAMBOAT

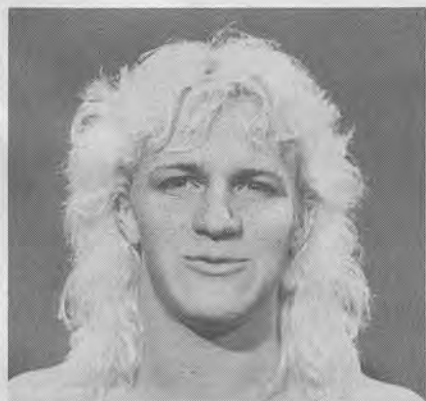
"Aren't you *Ricky Steamboat*? Sure, I hear that all the time, and actually I'm pretty flattered by it. He's proven to be one of the great wrestlers of the decade, and he set a standard for all scientific wrestlers to live up to. Now that he's decided to retire, it's up to me to uphold that standard. From what the fans tell me, I'm doing a pretty good job of it, too."



BRAD ARMSTRONG

"I'm very proud of my family. In fact, it really bugs me when other people proclaim themselves 'the first family of wrestling.' As far as I'm concerned, there has never been a family that could top Bob, Scott, Brad, and Steve Armstrong. We've always been the top stars of any federation we've competed in. And if any other families want to challenge us, they're more than welcome."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



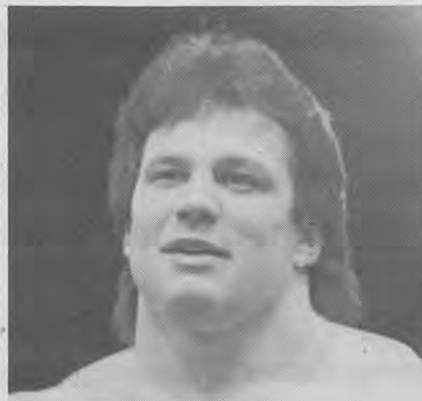
JEFF JARRETT

"A lot of my wrestling enemies accuse me of getting preferential treatment because my father, Jerry Jarrett, is a CWA official. That's ridiculous. In the past year alone, I've suffered a broken arm, a separated shoulder, and some serious facial cuts. I battled through those injuries totally on my own, with no help from *anyone*. I'm determined to make my *own* name in this sport."



JULES STRONGBOW

"As most fans know, I come from an Indian heritage that I share with my older brother, Jay. He's retired now, but he set a standard in wrestling that I don't think I could ever top—not that I really *want* to. Chief Jay Strongbow will go down in history as the greatest American Indian wrestler who ever lived. I think that's the way it should be. It's great being the brother of a legend."



SCOTT STEINER

"Are you kidding? Watching my brother Rick become a big star during this past year has been a real thrill. I had a pretty good year in 1988, too, winning the Renegade Rampage tourney and capturing the CWA tag team title. And who knows? Maybe someday Rick and myself can see clear to tag up from time to time. But for now, I'm content to go my way while he goes his."



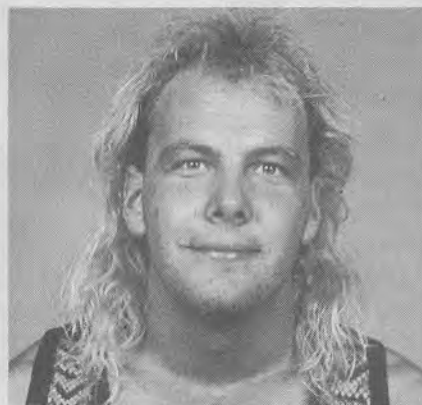
JOHNNY SMITH

"It stinks on ice. All the time, the idiot fans are telling me what a hero Davey Boy is while calling me every name in the book. Well, I don't care what they think, and I don't care what The British Bulldogs are up to at all. All I care about is keeping this British Commonwealth title solidly around my waist. Worrying about the bloody family is just a waste of valuable time."



EDDIE GILBERT

"That's a loaded question. Sure, my father Tommy is the greatest star in Memphis wrestling history. But that was his time, and this is *my* time. Today, I'm out to prove that I've really changed my evil ways, as the song says. But any decisions I've ever made—including the rule-breaking I've done in the past—have been mine and mine alone. I take full responsibility for my actions."



KENDALL WINDHAM

"To tell you the truth, I'm a little tired of all the family talk. Yes, Blackjack Mulligan is a legend, and yes, Barry is the U.S. champion. But I'm determined to make my own name. At this stage in my career, I've received all the help from my family that I'm ever going to need. Now, it's up to me to succeed or fail on my own talent and abilities. That's all the chance I want."

The Inquiring Reporter

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THE QUESTION:

"Should the WWF ban animals from ringside?"

THE ANSWERS:

Neil Olson, Tempe, AZ: "Definitely yes! There's absolutely no place for snakes or birds or animals of any kind. Why do men like Jake Roberts and Koko B. Ware have to bring their pets to the ring? To make themselves more popular? I hope the WWF does something to remedy this situation fast, or they're gonna lose a fan right here. As I said, there's no place in wrestling for this nonsense!"

John Griffin, Oak Hill, NY: "Instead of worrying about some harmless animal, these people who want animals banned should concentrate on what's really happening to the wrestlers. A parrot at ringside isn't going to harm or help anybody. And if somebody has been harmed by one of these ringside pets, they probably did something to deserve it. The real problem is foreign objects, like a pipe or a fork. *That's* what they ought to ban."

Pilar Hernandez, San Diego: "How could anyone say anything bad about Jake Roberts' darling snake, Damien? For most of the match that poor rep-



WWF star Koko B. Ware holds his parrot, Frankie, aloft for the fans to view. While the federation's animal mascots entertain many wrestling fans, others find them to be an unwanted distraction from the action.

tile is stuck in an old, dirty canvas bag. Jake should take better care of Damien. If he did, nobody would talk about banning him. Koko B. Ware looks after his parrot Frankie, and nobody complains about *him*. If a wrestler is going against Roberts and he doesn't like the snake, let him bring his own pet to the ring."

Gary Grossman, Milford, CT: "I think a ban is in order. First of all, Roberts and Koko didn't bring animals to the

ring before they entered the WWF, so that proves they don't need them to wrestle. Secondly, and I don't think this has been considered too seriously, these animals could be a health hazard. Have they been checked thoroughly by a vet? I doubt it."

Royal Haggar, St. Louis: "Yes, animals should be barred from ringside, but the WWF is not the only federation at fault. In the NWA, Rick Stein-

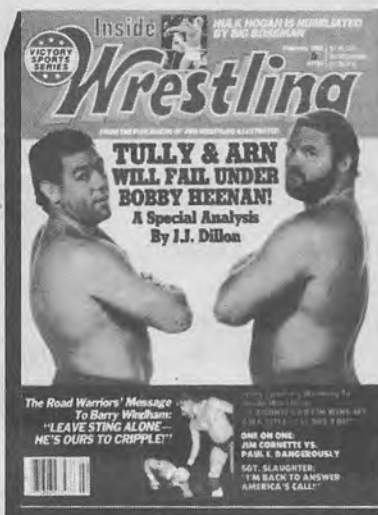
(Continued on page 47)

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SCRAPBOOK

MARCH/APRIL

1969

A VIOLENT FEUD between The Sheik and Fred Blassie came to a head in a brutal bloodbath in Los Angeles' Olympic Auditorium. A sellout crowd rioted when The Sheik was declared winner and still champion in this best-of-three-falls match for the Americas championship ... Promoter Sam Muchnick lifted a St. Louis ban against managers coming to ringside after receiving a written promise from Bobby Heenan that he would not interfere on behalf of his charge Blackjack Lanza ... Gorilla Mon-

soon could not fulfill his promise to bodyslam 601-pound Haystacks Calhoun in a match in Boston ... Also in Boston, the largest crowd ever (up until that time) to witness a sporting event indoors in that city (15,125) packed Boston Garden to see Bruno Sammartino successfully defend his WWF title against The Sheik ... AWA stars Doug Gilbert and Reg Parks battled to a brilliant 30-minute scientific draw in Chicago ... Johnny Valentine defeated Dan Miller to win the Texas heavyweight championship. After the match, Valentine proclaimed he would win the NWA World championship in less than 18 months' time ... Newcomer Duke Savage was beginning to garner a lot of attention



The Sheik digs his nails into Fred Blassie's forehead. Sheik and Blassie were two of the most bloodthirsty competitors ever, as their 1969 feud illustrates.

... The Chain Gang—Jack and Frank Dillinger—was a new tag team that was doing bizarre things like pulling heavy chains around with safety pins fastened through their flesh, and entering the ring with live leeches stuck to their bodies!

NWA RATINGS: 1—Dory Funk Jr.; 2—Gene Kiniski; 3—Fritz Von Erich; 4—The Sheik; 5—Eddie Graham; 6—Bob Ellis; 7—Pat O'Connor; 8—Johnny Valentine; 9—Ernie Ladd; 10—Bob Geigel.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Harley Race; 3—Crusher; 4—Bruiser; 5—Bill Watts; 6—Blackjack Lanza; 7—Mighty Igor; 8—Mad Dog Vachon; 9—Reg Parks; 10—Doug Gilbert.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Killer Kowalski; 3—Gorilla Monsoon; 4—Prof. Toru Tanaka; 5—Edouard Carpentier; 6—Miguel Perez; 7—George Steele; 8—Bull Ramos; 9—Spiros Arion; 10—Victor Rivera.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Bruiser & Crusher; 2—Pepper Gomez & Pedro Morales; 3—George Becker & Johnny Weaver; 4—Kenji Shibuya & Haru Sasaki; 5—Ole & Gene Anderson; 6—The Medics; 7—The Assassins; 8—Stan & Paul Vachon; 9—George & Sandy Scott; 10—Miguel Perez & Pete Sanchez.

MARCH/APRIL

1974

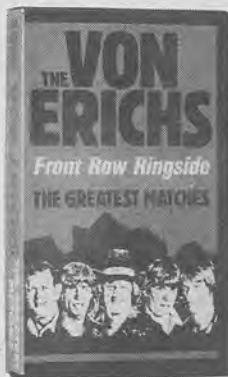
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN tag team partners Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods and Mr. Wrestling II exploded into a

(Continued on page 58)



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RICK STEINER

FOR MONTHS, RICK STEINER took all kinds of guff from Mike Rotundo and Kevin Sullivan. At Starrcade '88, he gave it all back . . . with interest.

Steiner did something a host of talented grapplers could never do: He defeated Rotundo for the NWA TV championship, ending Rotundo's 11-month title reign. He succeeded despite being opposed by Rotundo, Sullivan, and Steve "Dr. Death" Williams, the Varsity Club threesome Steiner once called his partners.

It was perhaps the sweetest victory of Steiner's young career. Ever since he joined The Varsity Club, Steiner had been treated as an inferior. Sullivan and Rotundo constantly insulted his abilities. When Steiner got a little overenthusiastic, they would quickly shut him up. Rotundo even "gave" Steiner his rarely defended Florida title as something of a pacifier.

When Williams joined the Club, Steiner was, after a brief time, kicked out. But he wasn't too upset. Indeed, he was overjoyed. Now he could do something about all the taunts his old partners had heaped upon him. The showdown between Steiner and Rotundo at Starrcade was inevitable.

Originally, Steiner anticipated a one-on-one encounter. Sullivan had been locked away in a cage above the ring to prevent his interference, and Williams was thought to be resting after he and Sullivan took the U.S. tag belts from The Fantastics. But as the match between two superb scientific wrestlers progressed, Williams suddenly appeared at ringside.

Just when it looked as though Steiner would score the pin with a belly-to-belly suplex, Williams rang the timekeeper's bell. Thinking the bout had been officially stopped, referee Teddy Long ordered the wrestlers to halt. As Sullivan was being lowered to the arena floor and let out of the cage, a second referee, Tommy Young, came to ringside to question Long about the stoppage.

Sullivan believed his plan had worked. Even if the match were restarted—which it was—Rotundo would be the beneficiary of a three-on-one situation.

But Steiner was not to be denied. He whipped Rotundo into Sullivan, who had been standing on the ring apron arguing with Young, and knocked him to the arena floor. Rotundo careened back into the ring. Steiner seized the moment, hooked the leg, and made the cover. Both referees counted the pin, giving Steiner the championship.

Steiner couldn't resist taunting his former teammates. He ran around the ring several times laughing and pointing at them. "Gamesmaster" Sullivan had been outsmarted by a "dummy." Some dummy.

"They called me stupid," Steiner laughed. "They called me dumb. But look who the dummies are now! I'm the TV champion. Rotundo's a nobody. Boy, am I glad I left The Varsity Club! They couldn't even beat the freshman!"

Steiner compared his victory with Michigan's win in the Rose Bowl. "Just like they said a Big 10 team can't win the Rose Bowl, they said I couldn't beat 'Retardo.' Well, look what Michigan did to USC! They came back to win, the same way I did. You know, I think maybe the football team was inspired by me. I'm a pretty inspiring guy, don't you think?"

Inspiring enough to win "Wrestler of the Month" honors. Steiner's exuberance and enthusiasm has made him a big favorite with the fans. "He's an original," said Georgette Walker of Greenville, South Carolina. "He doesn't put on airs. You can tell he's so happy to be a wrestler. When he comes out to the ring he puts everybody in a good mood. Wrestling would be a greater sport if there were more men like Rick Steiner."

If there were more men like Steiner, however, there'd be fewer men like Sullivan. That's why Sullivan is determined to destroy Steiner.

"Where would that punk be without my genius?" Sullivan insists. "His winning Mike's TV title is a fluke that will soon be rectified. I've lost all patience with Steiner. For months I had to put up with his idiocy. He was a little child, begging Mike and I for attention. But soon he'll be begging for mercy!"

"That's *my* belt he's running around wearing!" screamed Rotundo. "I'm gonna pound that Michigan moron and prove that Syracuse is better any day. If he's not too chicken to give me a rematch, I'll show him why I'm the superior wrestler. Look at the tape; he cheated at Starrcade. That's the *only* reason he's the champion today."

"Let's look past all this business with his friend Alex and his dog," says NWA announcer Jim Ross, who called the Starrcade match. "Steiner was an all-American wrestler at Michigan. He knows more moves, maneuvers, and holds than just about anybody in the sport today. Steiner simply outwrestled Rotundo. That's all there was to it."

Steiner may hold the TV title for two years, or he may have lost it by the time you read this, but at the very least he's made his point. The man may make you laugh with his crazy antics outside the ring, but pity the opponent who doesn't take Steiner dead seriously between the ropes. □

Rick Steiner outsmarted The Varsity Club at Starrcade '88 to win the NWA TV title.



POINT/COUNTERPOINT

POINT:

RIC FLAIR WAS RIGHT TO DENY LEX LUGER ANOTHER TITLE MATCH



Ric Flair may have his eye on the crowd, but his mind is on punishing Lex Luger. In Bob Smith's opinion, Luger has gotten enough shots at Flair's NWA World title. Now, Smith writes, it's time for other challengers to get their chances.

By Bob Smith

SHORTLY AFTER HIS match against Lex Luger at Starrcade '88, Ric Flair created one of the most important stories of the year when he declared that Luger, long thought to be the heir apparent to the NWA throne, would never receive another title shot.

Flair's declaration couldn't have come at a better time.

Luger deserved the match against Flair at Starrcade. The stipulation that a disqualification counts as a pin should pertain to *all* title matches, not just this one, and made sense considering how many times Flair has disqualified himself to save the belt. But even with this stipulation, Luger couldn't get the job done.

For the five months leading up to Starrcade, Luger hogged the majority of the matches against Flair. When he nearly beat Flair at the Great American Bash card in Baltimore last July, everybody, including me, thought it was only a matter of time before Luger won the belt. Wrong.

There's a pretty impressive list of contenders lining up for a match against Flair: Sting, Rick Steiner, Bam Bam Bigelow, Eddie Gilbert, Ron Simmons, Mike Rotundo, and Barry Windham all deserve shots at Flair. There have also been rumors that Rick Steamboat is ready to renew his early 1980s feud with the "Nature Boy."

Forget the controversy at the end of the Starrcade match. There's been controversy in nearly every Flair-Luger match; each time, Luger whines and complains, gets another match, then loses, whines, and complains again. He's had his chance.

There will never be perfect conditions in wrestling. It's impossible. Referees only have two eyes, so they're bound to miss a call. You can't eliminate all outside interference and cheating all the time. It's simply part of the game. When Luger realizes this, he'll be ready to become champion. Now, it's time for someone else to try.

Bob Smith is an assistant editor of *Sports Review Wrestling*

There are two sides to every story, and nowhere is that more true than in professional wrestling. Each month, two of the world's most respected mat journalists will debate an important issue concerning the sport, facing off for an exchange of ideas, leaving the final decision up to you!

COUNTERPOINT:

RIC FLAIR WAS WRONG TO DENY LEX LUGER ANOTHER TITLE MATCH



Luger cleanly presses Flair over his head. Because Flair hasn't beaten Luger cleanly yet, Peters feels the challenger deserves more title matches. A cage match, he writes, would be appropriate in this instance.

By Craig Peters

LEX LUGER IS one of the finest young talents in wrestling. In my opinion, only Sting has a brighter future than the "Total Package." And every time I watch a Flair-Luger title match, I'm amazed at how much better Luger is getting. He certainly hasn't reached the peak of his abilities.

That said, it should be pointed out that Luger has dominated Flair in almost all of their title matches. He has pinned him in several tag team battles. But, for some reason, Luger just can't pin Flair when the NWA World championship is on the line. There are several reasons for this:

- Referees aren't perfect.
- Flair cheats.
- J.J. Dillon's interfering presence at ringside.
- Bad luck.

I won't dispute that Luger has received more than his share of matches against Flair. I also agree that Sting, Rick Steiner, and several other wrestlers deserve matches against the champ. But there's room for Luger; he shouldn't be shut off completely.

This is an indisputable fact: Ric Flair has yet to score a clean pin over Lex Luger. Flair had his feet on the ropes when he pinned Luger at Starrcade, and probably would've lost if Luger's knee hadn't given out. Of course, Luger's knee would've been fine if Flair hadn't slammed it with a chair earlier in the match.

If you ask me, Flair is scared of Luger. He knows he can't beat him cleanly, and he knows it's only a matter of time before Luger overcomes all the cheating and beats him. You see, the logical next step in this feud is a cage match. In that case, Flair would have nowhere to run. Outside interference would be nearly impossible.

That's what Flair really means when he says he won't wrestle Luger again: He's afraid of going into the cage with Luger.

The NWA shouldn't let him get away with this. Luger must demand a cage match. He must get it. **Craig Peters is managing editor of *Sports Review Wrestling***



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Special Section:

Photos by Bill Apter

STARRCADE '88

TRUE GRITT!

**Exclusive Coverage Of
All The Action And Drama**

Ric Flair held off Lex Luger's NWA title challenge! Rick Steiner won the TV title! Steve Williams and Kevin Sullivan scored a shocking upset for the U.S. tag title! But that's only part of the Starrcade '88 story—*Sports Review Wrestling* was there to bring you all the action!

By Bill Apter

STARRCADE '88, THE NWA's sixth-annual holiday extravaganza, will be remembered for several reasons. Held on December 26, it was the first Starrcade not held on Thanksgiving. It was also the first Starrcade conducted under the ownership of Ted Turner's Universal Wrestling Corporation.

But there were plenty of pure wrestling reasons to remember Starrcade '88. A sellout crowd at The Scope in Norfolk, Virginia, and thousands more watching on pay-per-view TV, thrilled to three hours of unforgettable action. Five titles were on the line; two changed hands. Dubbed "True Gritt," the action never waned for a moment.

The big winners were Rick Steiner and the team of Kevin Sullivan and Steve Williams.

Steiner scored a thrilling victory over former Varsity Club teammate Mike Rotundo to win the NWA TV title, then celebrated by wildly running around the ring while laughing at Rotundo and manager Sullivan. Earlier in the card, Sullivan and Williams scored a shocking victory over The Fantastics for the U.S. tag belts.

And there were so many other great moments on this historic card:

- Dusty Rhodes and Sting came within a fraction of a second of defeating The Road Warriors for the NWA World tag title, but Paul Ellering interfered at the last moment to save his "Legion of Doom."

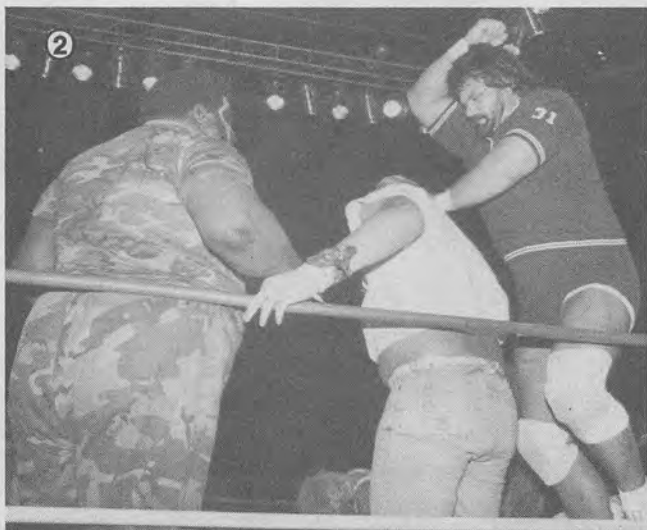
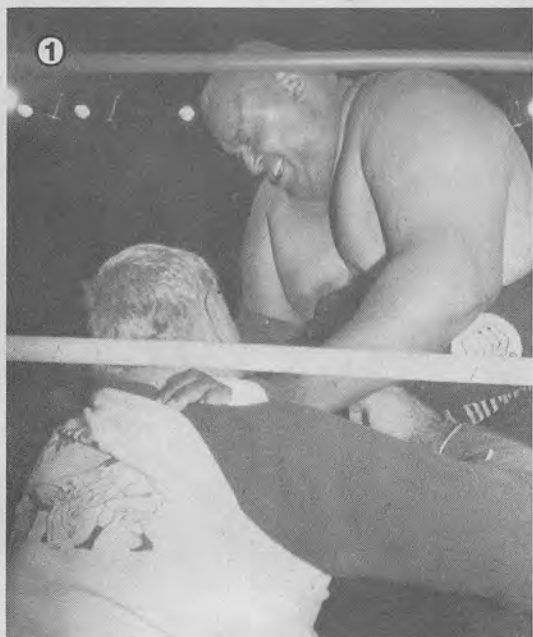
- Barry Windham held off the challenge of a determined Bam Bam Bigelow to retain the U.S. title.

- NWA World champion Ric Flair scored a controversial pinfall victory over Lex Luger, then declared it was Luger's *last* shot at the title. Luger pinned Flair for a two-count several times, but never scored the elusive pin.

- The Russian Assassins defeated Ivan Koloff and Junkyard Dog in a heated grudge match. But JYD, who recently moved from the WWF to the NWA, came back later in the card to win the first Bunkhouse Stampede of the season.

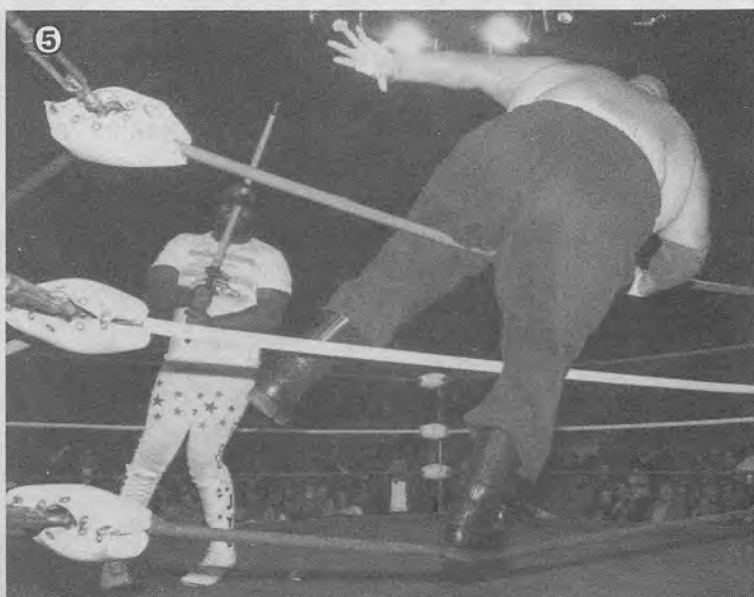
It was an amazing day of wrestling that will never be forgotten. Some wrestlers may have lost, but every fan was a winner at Starrcade '88. The NWA's most important show of the year provided non-stop action and memorable excitement, which we're proud to bring to you on the pages that follow. Enjoy!

THE BUNKHOUSE STAMPEDE

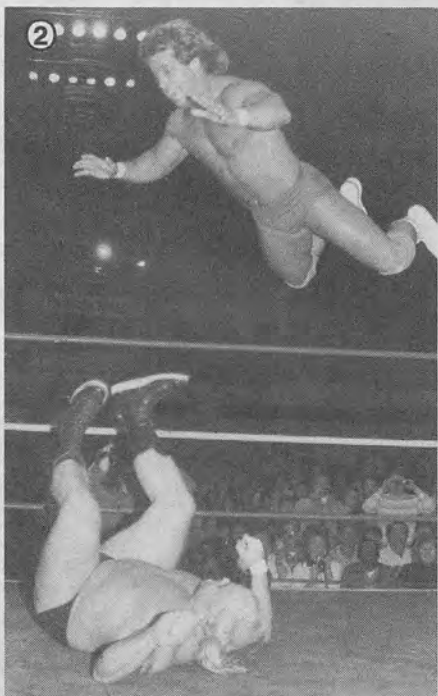
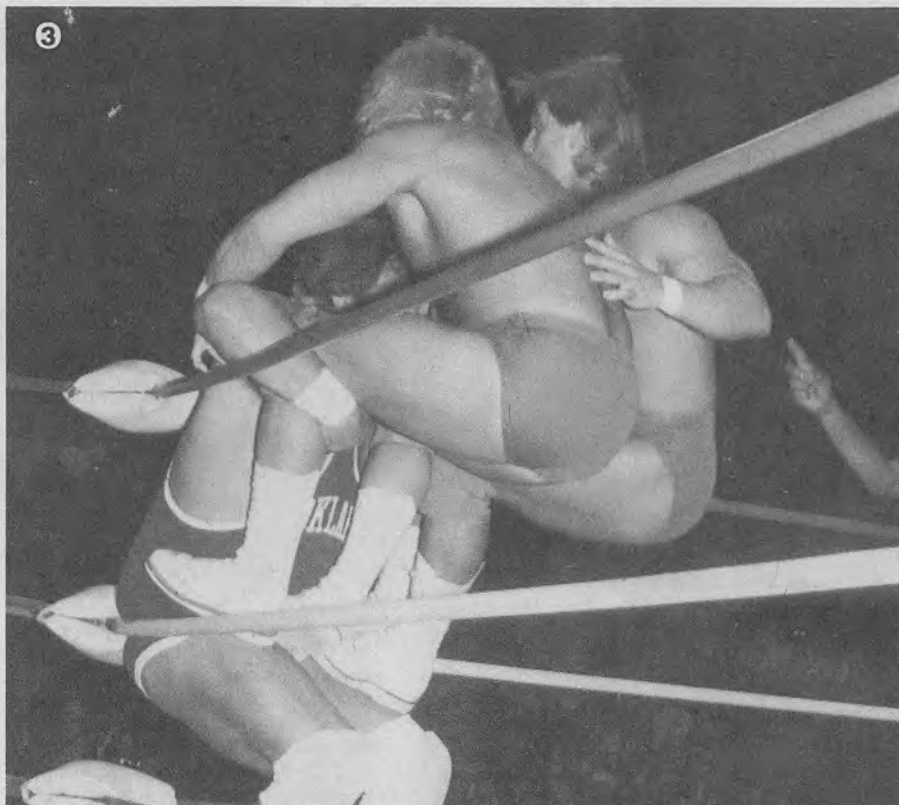
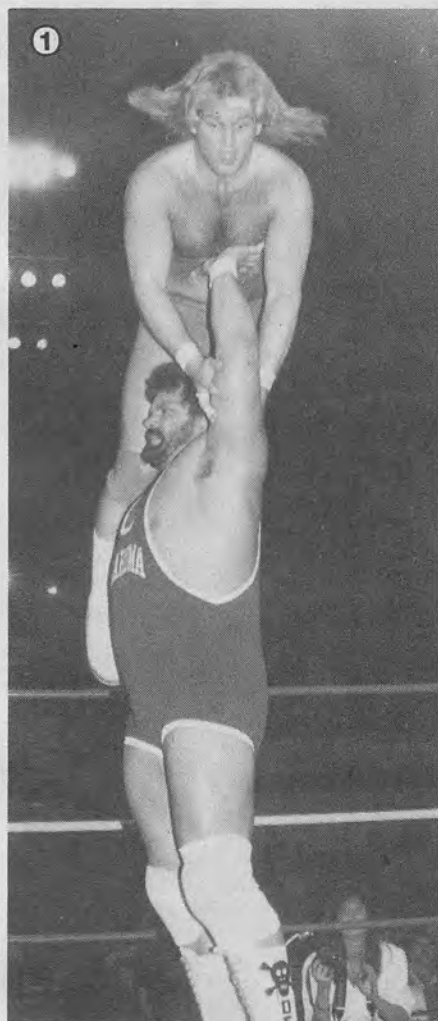


Junkyard Dog recently left the WWF for the NWA to team with Ivan Koloff, who was under assault from Paul Jones and The Russian Assassins. Earlier in the evening, JYD and Koloff lost to the Assassins; JYD was ready for this Bunkhouse Stampede, however, the first in the annual Bunkhouse series.

1. Abdullah the Butcher chokes Dick Murdoch. Upon his return to the NWA, the Butcher was eager for some new blood, but the veteran Murdoch wasn't about to oblige him.
2. Commando Ray Candy watches Steve Williams give Eddie Gilbert an elbowsmash. Williams scored another Starrcade '88 victory when he and Kevin Sullivan won the U.S. tag team title from The Fantastics.
3. Murdoch helps Dustin Rhodes save Eddie Gilbert from Abdullah's wrath. Dustin was trying to repeat his father's Bunkhouse success.
4. Gilbert and Williams dump Murdoch over the top rope. Up until that point, Gilbert had been helping Murdoch, but in a Bunkhouse Stampede there are no friends.
5. At the end, JYD uses Gary Hart's kendo stick to knock Abdullah out of the ring and score the win. The Dog proved that he is still capable of scoring the big win.

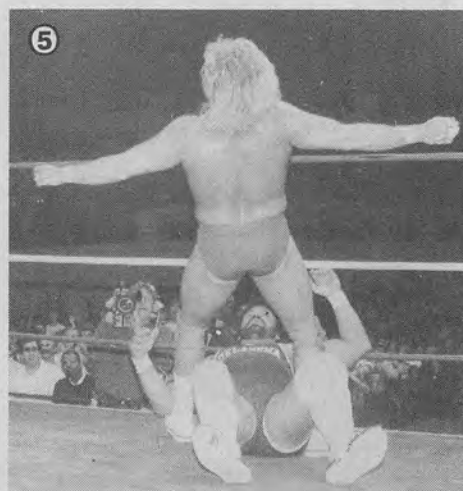
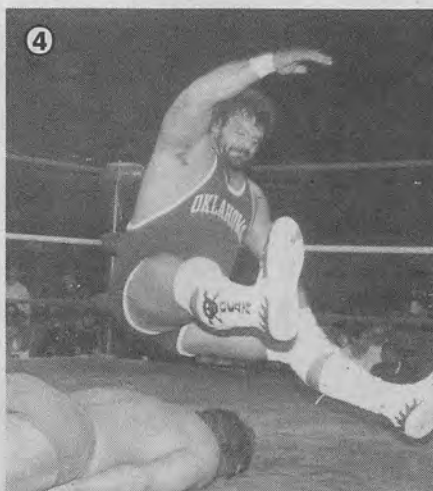


THE FANTASTICS vs. KEVIN SULLIVAN & STEVE WILLIAMS

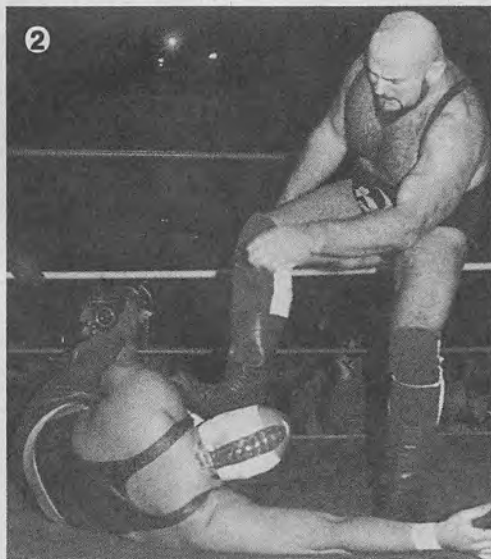
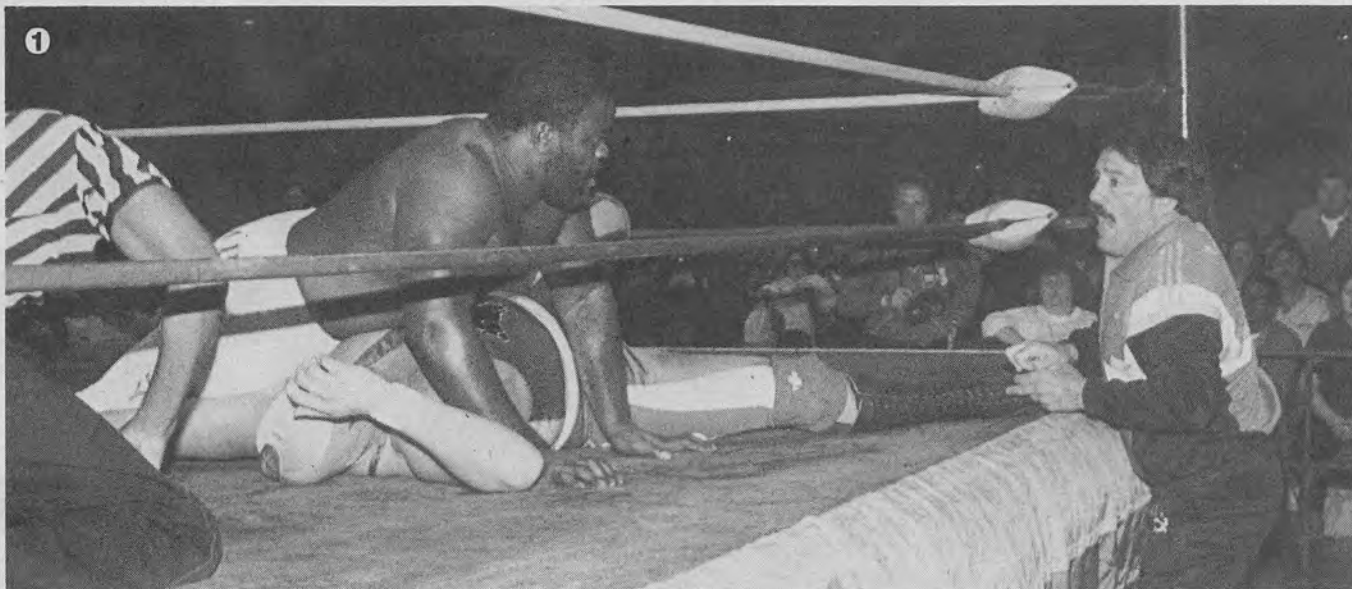


The Fantastics (Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers) have been teaming together for years, so it was no surprise when they won the U.S. tag team title again on December 7, 1988. At Starrcade, they were expected to hold off the challenge of Kevin Sullivan and Steve "Dr. Death" Williams, two-thirds of The Varsity Club; they failed.

1. Williams, quite possibly the most powerful man in wrestling, easily presses Fulton overhead. "Dr. Death's" turn back to rulebreaking was a shock to many of his fans.
2. Sullivan puts his legs up in order to counter the impact of Rogers' leap off the top rope.
3. Fulton and Rogers, experts at double-teaming, set up Williams for a flip. The Fantastics were hoping their speed and tag team experience could overcome The Varsity Club's strength advantage.
4. "Dr. Death" executes a legdrop to the back of Rogers' neck.
5. Williams slingshots Fulton off the ropes before pinning him. This upset victory would be The Varsity Club's only success of the night.

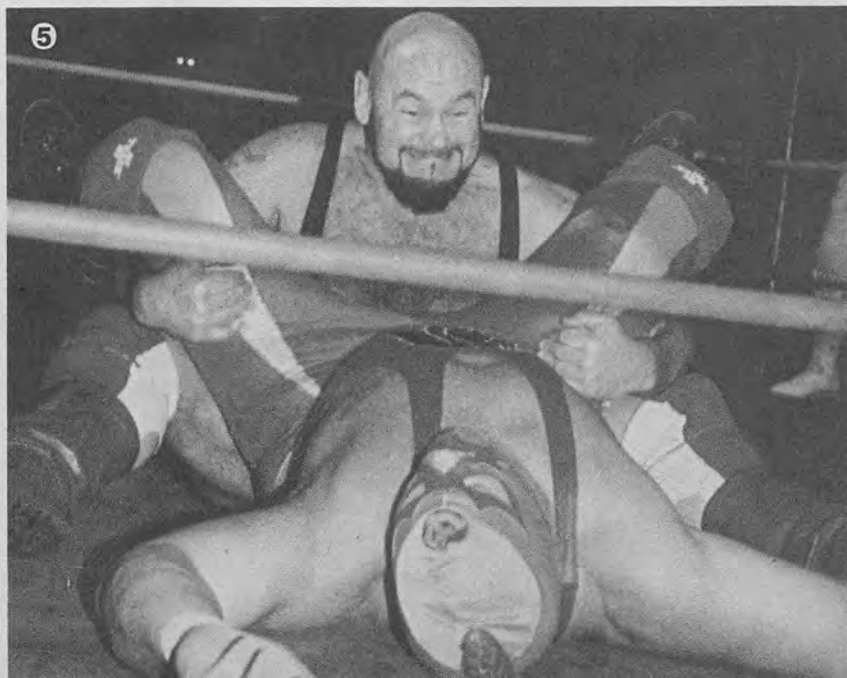
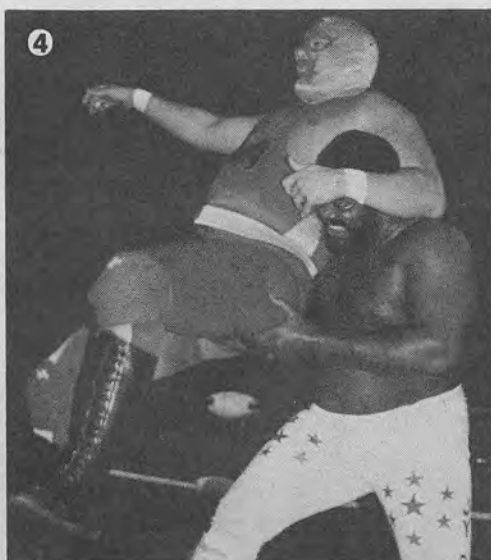


IVAN KOLOFF & JUNKYARD DOG vs. THE RUSSIAN ASSASSINS

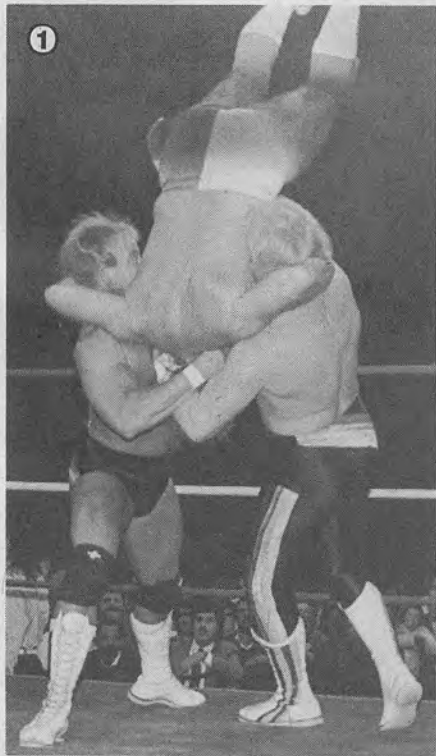


When Nikita Koloff was unable to join his uncle Ivan in battling Paul Jones' Russian Assassins, Junkyard Dog came to the rescue. If Jones' team lost, he'd have to retire—but Jones had another plan.

1. JYD covers the Assassin and makes sure Jones won't interfere.
2. Koloff boots one Assassin in the head.
3. Koloff levels the Assassin with his Russian sickle.
4. JYD drops his Russian foe on his tailbone.
5. Ivan has the Assassin down, but he didn't get a three-count. One of the Assassins put a foreign object under his mask, headbutted Ivan, and scored the pin.

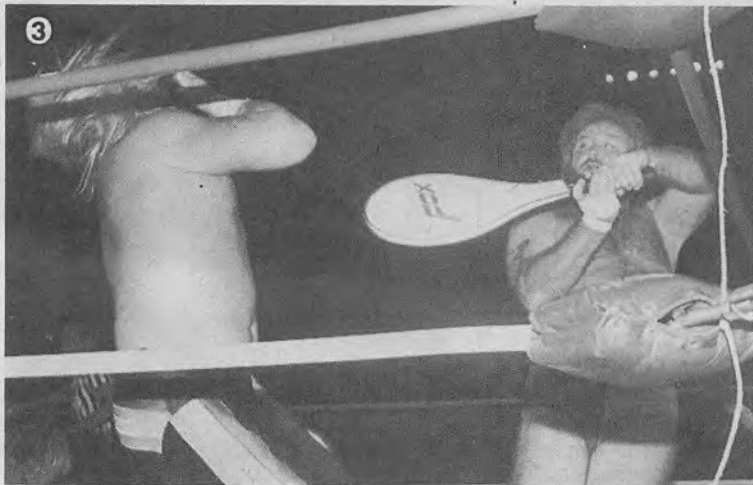
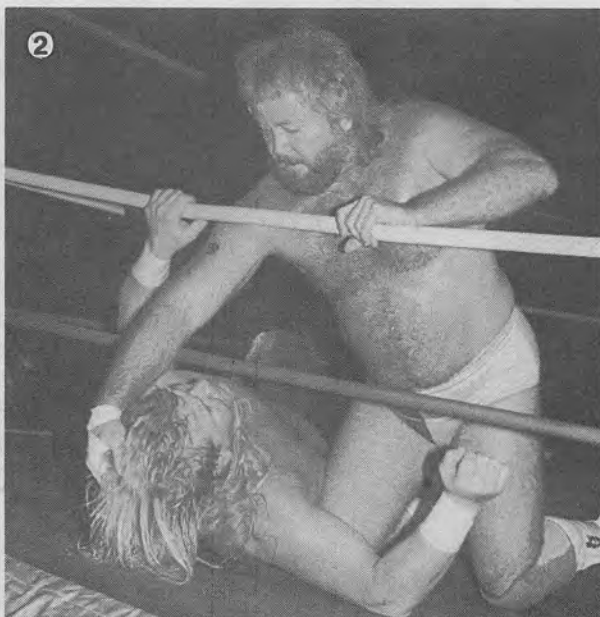


THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS vs. THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

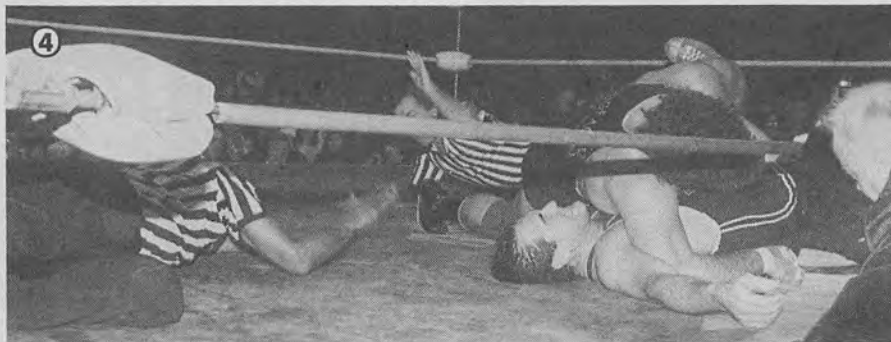
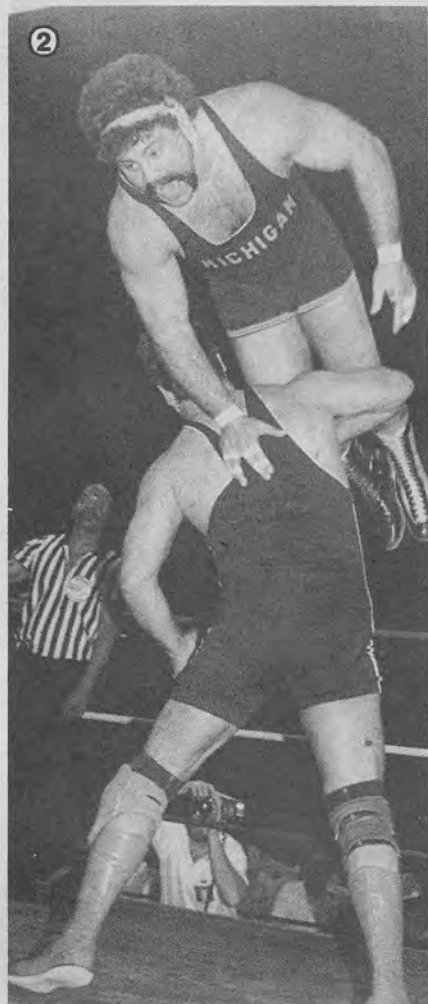
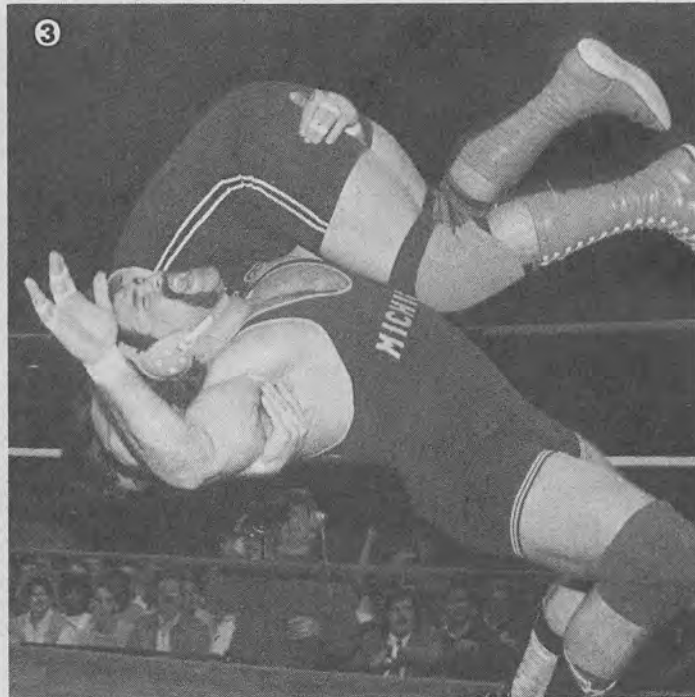
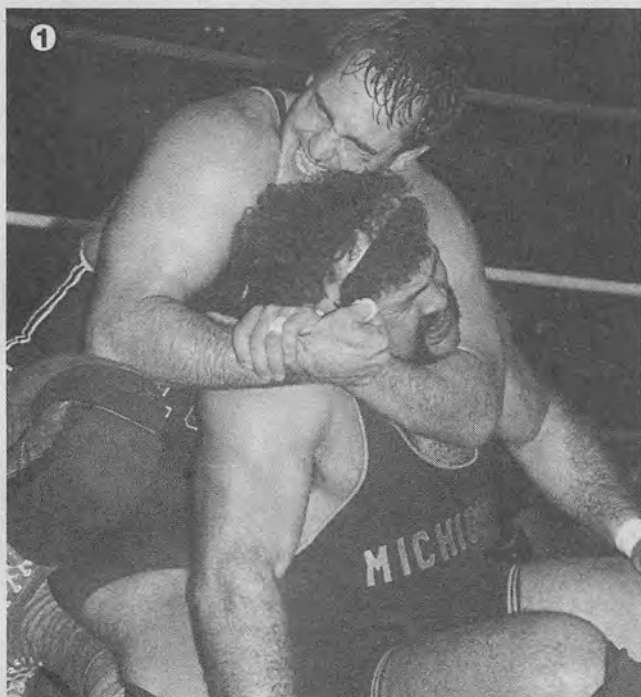


What's in a name? Plenty. Just ask Jim Cornette or Paul E. Dangerously. Each man is determined to prove his own Midnight Express the superior team.

1. Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton suplex Dennis Condrey, who was once a world championship partner of Eaton's.
2. Condrey attacks his former partner Eaton in the ropes.
3. Condrey wallops Eaton with Cornette's infamous tennis racket.
4. As Randy Rose covers Lane, referee Teddy Long starts the count, then stops when he sees Dangerously's portable phone on the mat.
5. Angry over losing the match, Paul E. directs Condrey to beat on Eaton with the racket.

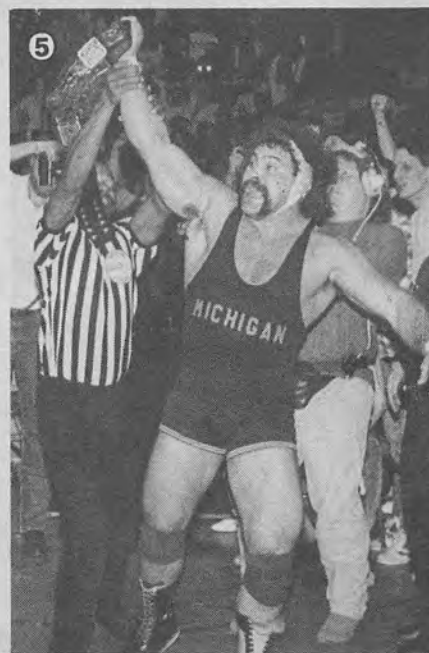


MIKE ROTUNDO vs. RICK STEINER

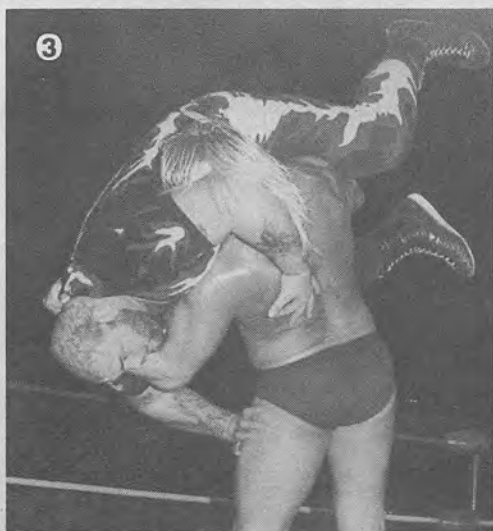
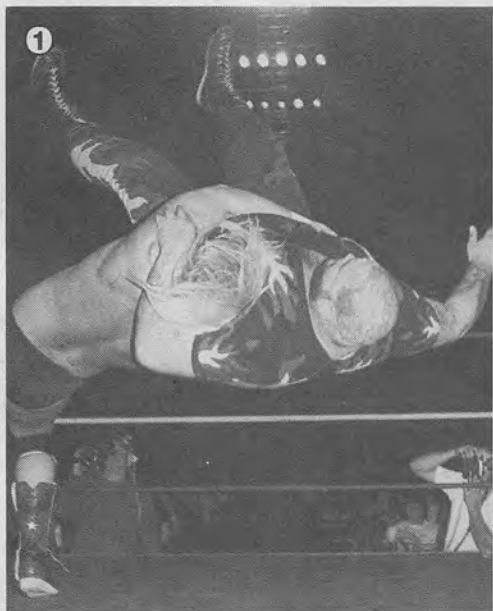


Mike Rotundo didn't think he'd have much of a problem defending his NWA TV title against his former Varsity Club partner Rick Steiner, even with "Gamesmaster" Kevin Sullivan suspended above the ring in a cage.

1. Rotundo chinlocks Steiner. Both men are well-schooled in the scientific aspects of the sport.
2. Steiner goes up high on a Rotundo backflip. Steiner may do some silly things during interviews, but he knows what he's doing in the ring.
3. Steiner, who calls himself a "dog-faced gremlin," suplexes Rotundo, proud wearer of Syracuse's colors.
4. Steiner covers Rotundo for the pin as referees Teddy Long and Tommy Young make the count. Young appeared after Steve Williams rang the timekeeper's bell, causing Long to stop the match prematurely.
5. Steiner gleefully runs around the ring brandishing his newly won TV title belt.



BARRY WINDHAM vs. BAM BAM BIGELOW

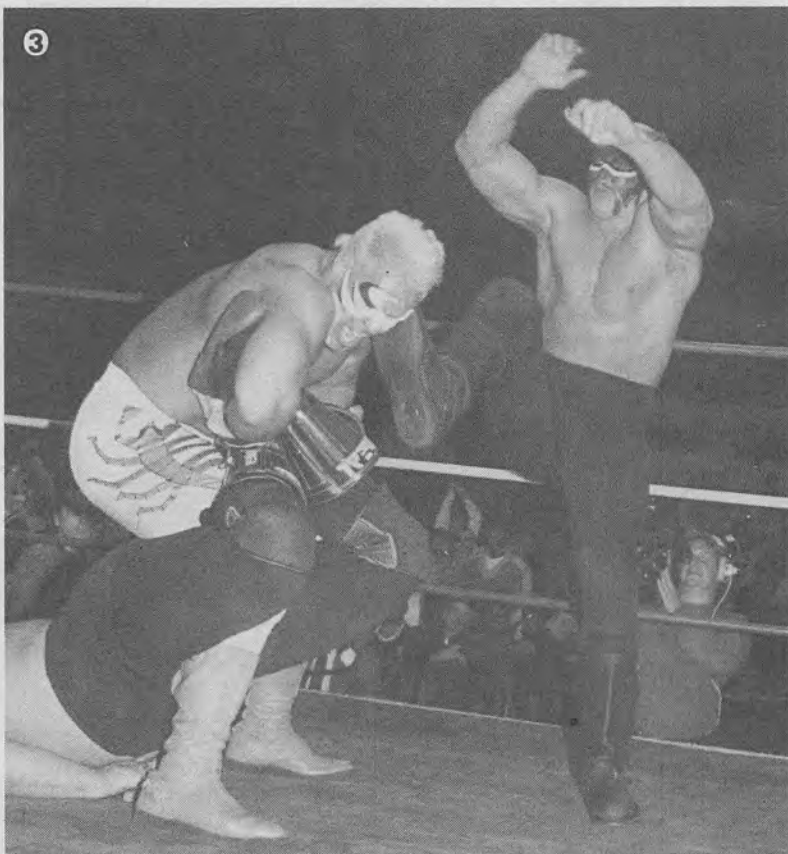
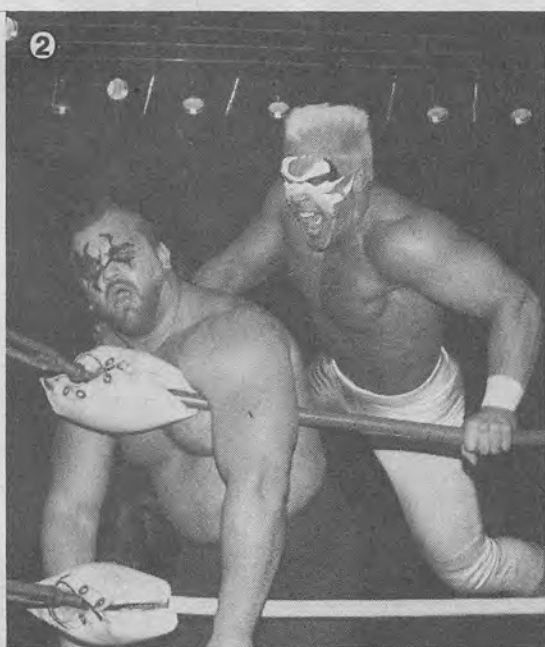
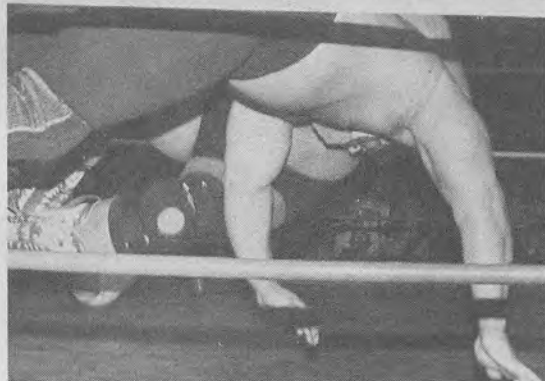
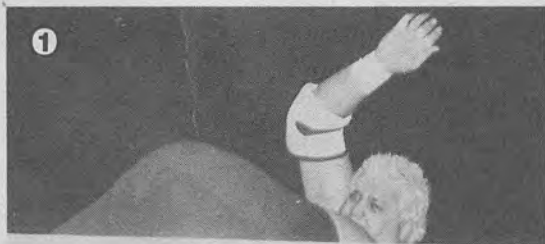


Despite his reputation as a Horseman, Barry Windham is an outstanding grappler who has defended his U.S. title against many worthy challengers. Bam Bam Bigelow returned from Japan for this opportunity to win one of the sport's most prized championships.

1. Windham takes Bigelow over with a suplex. As always, J.J. Dillon was at ringside for Windham's title defense. Dillon would make another appearance with Ric Flair later in the evening.
2. Bigelow attempts a press-slam. In addition to his power, Bigelow also boasts a remarkable aerial attack.
3. Windham slams Bigelow. Bam Bam was seconded by Oliver Humperdink, who also managed Bigelow in the WWF.
4. Windham slaps the claw on Bigelow. Since turning rulebreaker and winning the title, Windham has used that hold frequently. It was a specialty of his father, Blackjack Mulligan.
5. Windham and Bigelow go at it outside the ring. After Windham beat the count and returned to the ring, Bam Bam was counted out. Windham achieved the Horsemen's first success of the night.

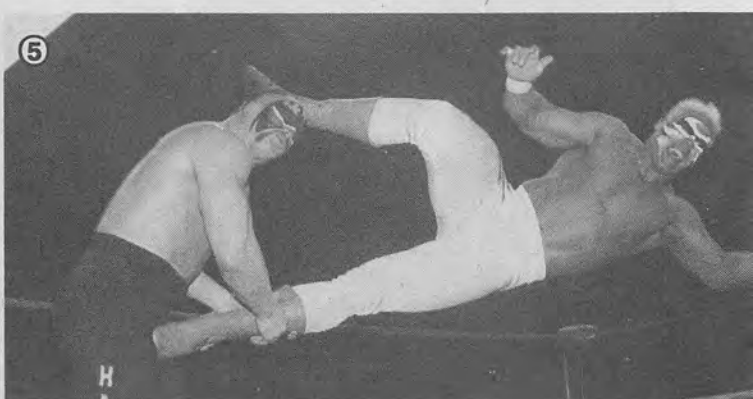


THE ROAD WARRIORS vs. STING & DUSTY RHODES

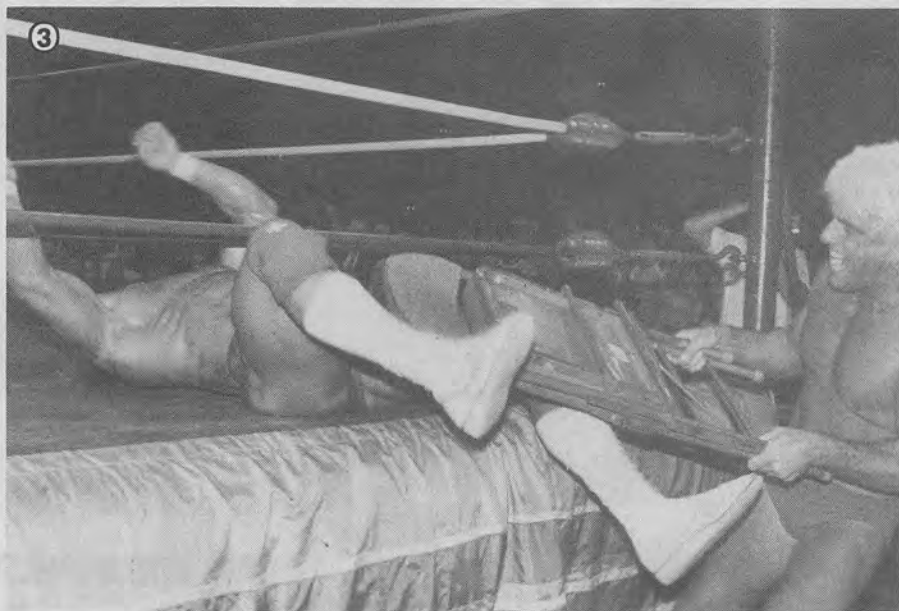
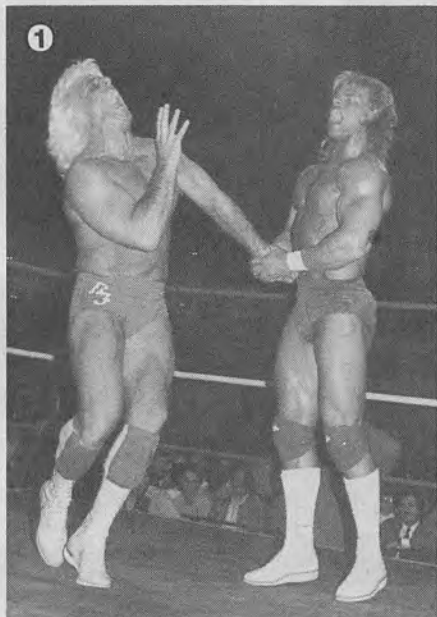


When Dusty Rhodes failed to appear for a six-man title defense with The Road Warriors, Hawk and Animal turned against Sting, their substitute partner. A few weeks later, The Legion of Doom tried to rip out the "American Dream's" eye. All of which led to this Starrcade showdown.

1. Rhodes executes a brainbuster on Animal. It wasn't too long ago that Dusty could count on the Warriors' friendship. Now they're locked in a struggle that threatens all their careers.
2. Sting attacks Animal, who looks like he's taken more than his share of punishment from the "Stinger." At one point in the match, Sting dove at Animal from the top rope to the arena floor!
3. Hawk boots Sting in the head in an attempt to save his partner from Sting's Boston crab.
4. Sting is about to pin Animal when Paul Ellering jumps in to make the save. Ellering's interference caused the referee to disqualify the Warriors, giving Dusty and Sting the victory, but not the title.
5. Sting breaks Hawk's hold on him with a kick in the head. These men are definitely on each other's hit list!

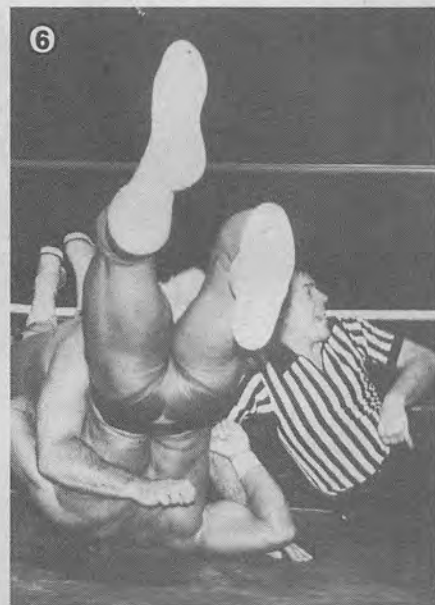
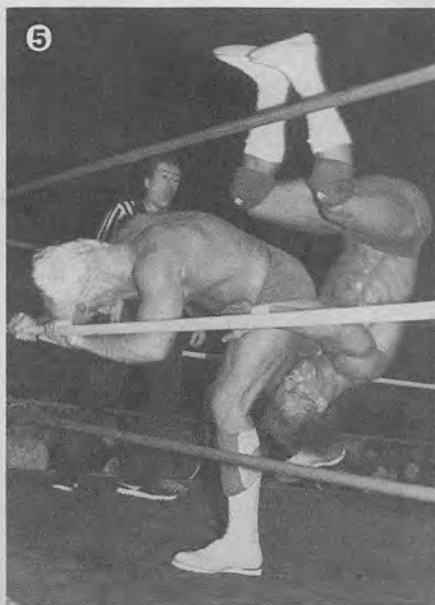
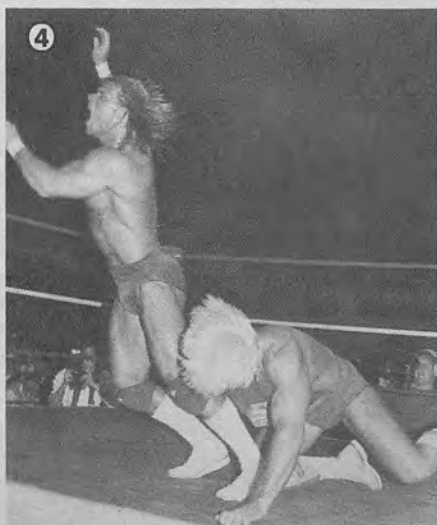


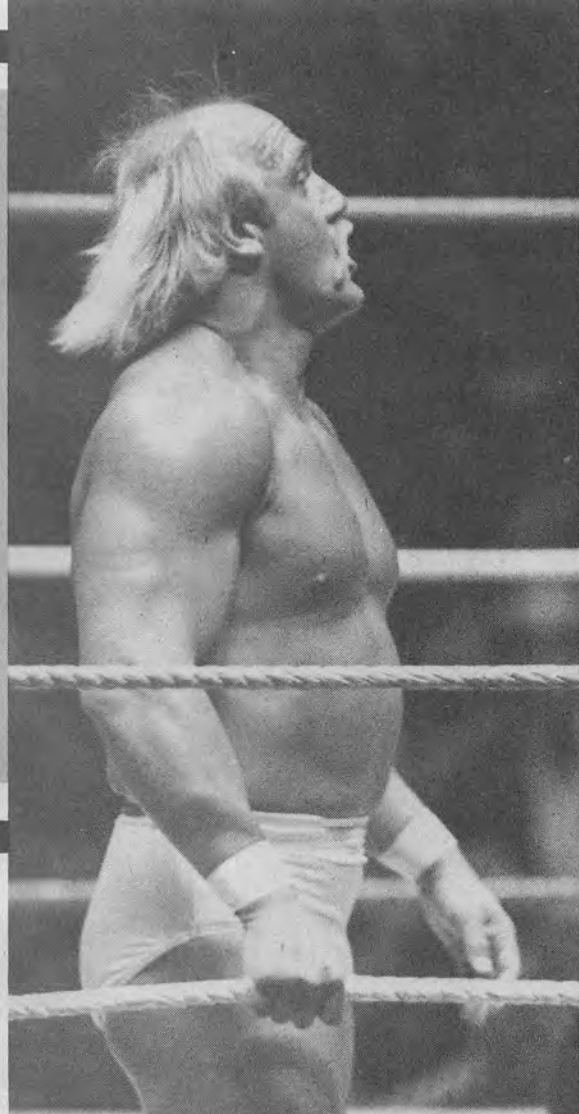
RIC FLAIR vs. LEX LUGER



The feud between NWA World champion Ric Flair and his number-one challenger, Lex Luger, reached a high point at the Great American Bash in July 1988 when Luger lost because of a Maryland state ruling about blood. Luger came back strong at Starrcade, but failed to win the title—after which Flair declared this would be Luger's last shot at his belt.

1. Luger twist's the champion's arm. Though he has never scored a clean pin over Luger, the "Nature Boy" has mastered his younger opponent, psychologically if not physically.
2. Luger executes a flying bodypress on Flair. Luger has improved greatly as a wrestler over the past year.
3. Flair smashes Luger's knee with a chair. That weakened Luger considerably and would eventually cost him the match.
4. Flair throws himself at Luger's legs, knocking him to the mat. Luger knew Flair would do anything to hold on to his title.
5. Luger attempts a sunset flip, but Flair grabs the ropes. At several points in the match, Luger flexed for the crowd when it looked as though Flair could have been pinned. It would prove to be his downfall.
6. Tommy Young calls for the bell after Flair pins Luger. The champion had his feet on the ropes, but Young says he didn't see it.





WHO'S BETTER: HOGAN OR

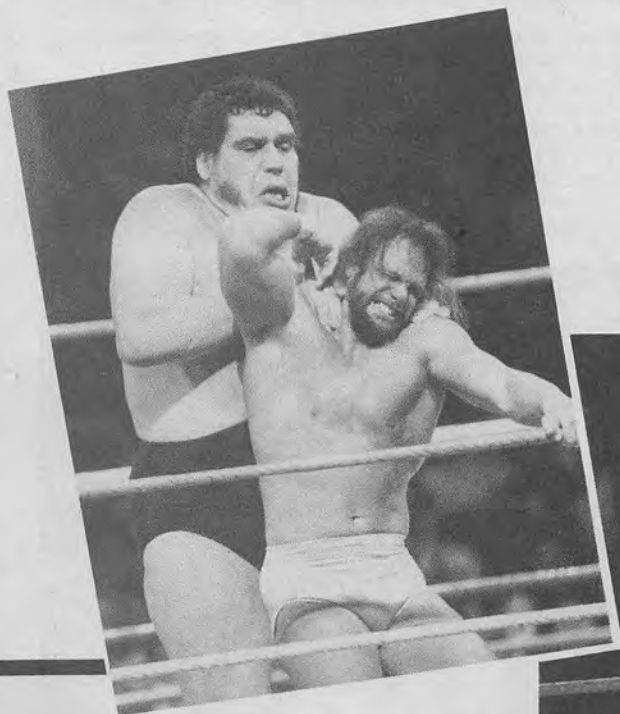
By Eddie Ellner

THE FATES ARE fickle. They denied us Muhammad Ali vs. Joe Louis, then tried to apologize with 10 glorious years of Larry Bird vs. Magic Johnson. Sports fans learn to accept what's offered and not complain. But as a new year dawns on professional wrestling, a benevolent fate appears to be smiling upon her fans.

Who will emerge with the WWF World heavyweight belt when Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan revive their legendary rivalry?

And you can count on it, Hogan and Savage *will* tangle again. Elizabeth's decision to manage both men has proven more divisive than decisive. Unwittingly (although some insist her every move is scrupulously plotted), she has laid the groundwork for the encore of one of the decade's most explosive feuds.

(Continued on page 54)

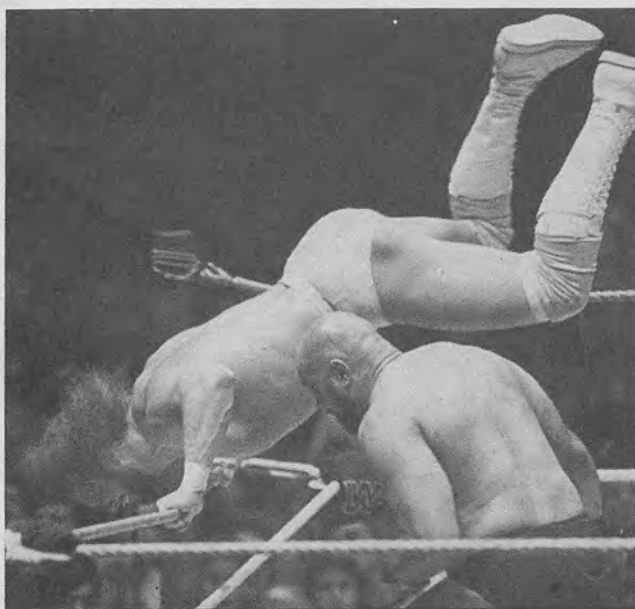


Savage has struggled in his matches against Andre (above), while come-from-behind victories for Hogan have been common in his famous matches against the Giant (right).

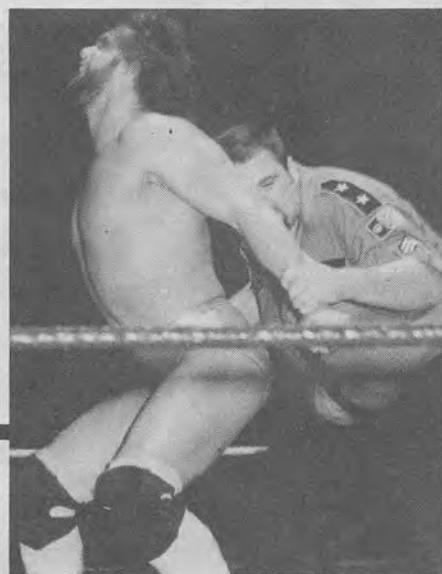
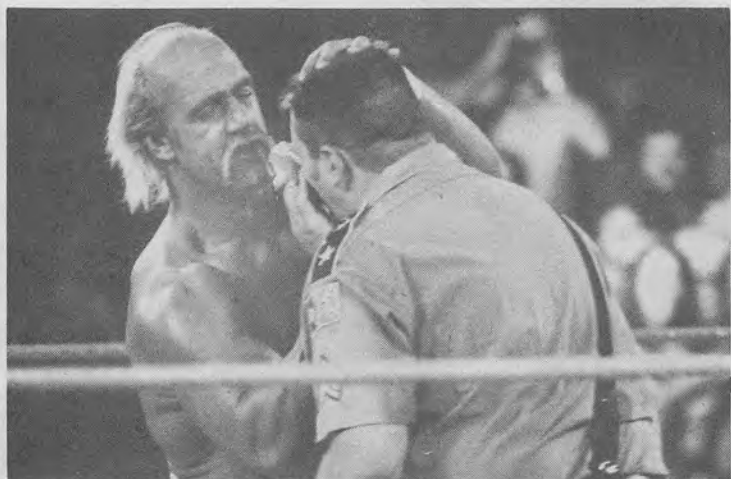
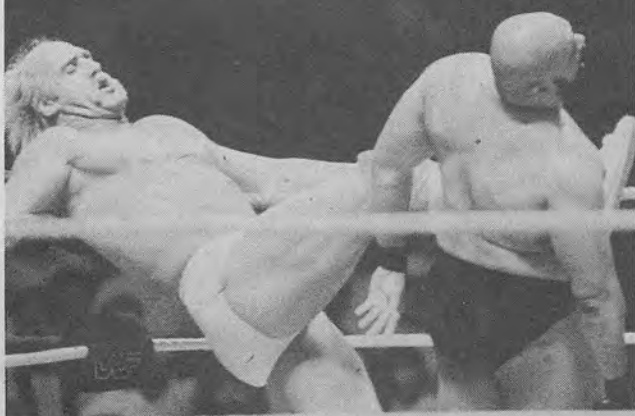


Hulk Hogan is bigger and stronger, but Randy Savage is faster and more skilled. Hulk Hogan is a more determined competitor, but Randy Savage is inspired by love. The ultimate showdown between WWF World champion Savage and former champ Hogan appears at hand. How will it turn out?

SAVAGE?

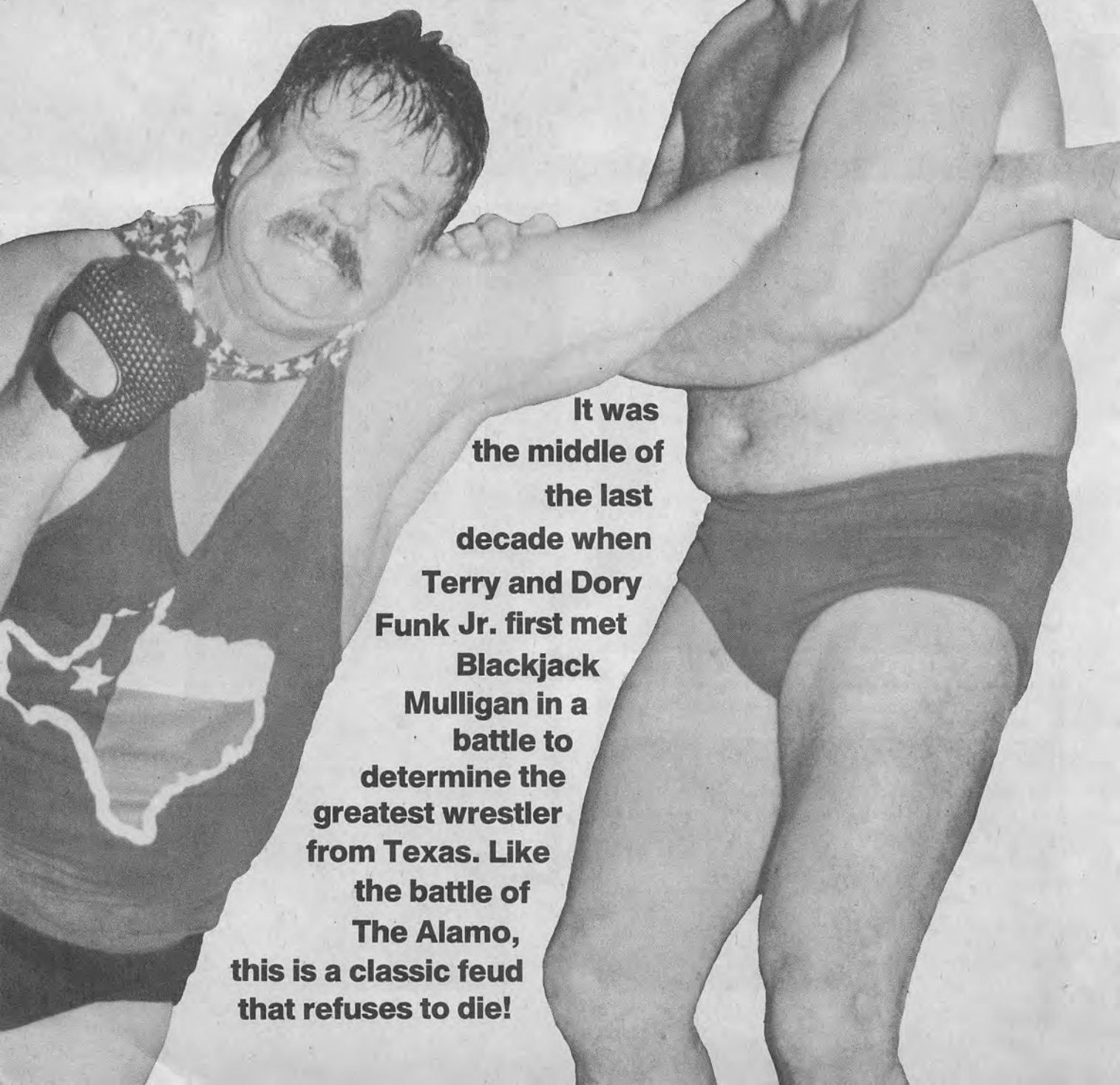


Savage braces his fall after Bad News Brown tosses him onto the ropes (above). Hogan kicks a stunned Brown (right). Savage has struggled against Bad News while Hogan has scored easy wins.



The "Hulkster" stuffs his shirt in Big Bossman's mouth (above). Bossman catches Savage in a surfboard (left). The ex-prison guard has given both wrestlers trouble.

After 15 Years, 47 72 Pints Of THE FUNK -M



**It was
the middle of
the last
decade when
Terry and Dory
Funk Jr. first met
Blackjack
Mulligan in a
battle to
determine the
greatest wrestler
from Texas. Like
the battle of
The Alamo,
this is a classic feud
that refuses to die!**

Broken Bones & Blood . . . MULLIGAN WAR STILL RAGES!

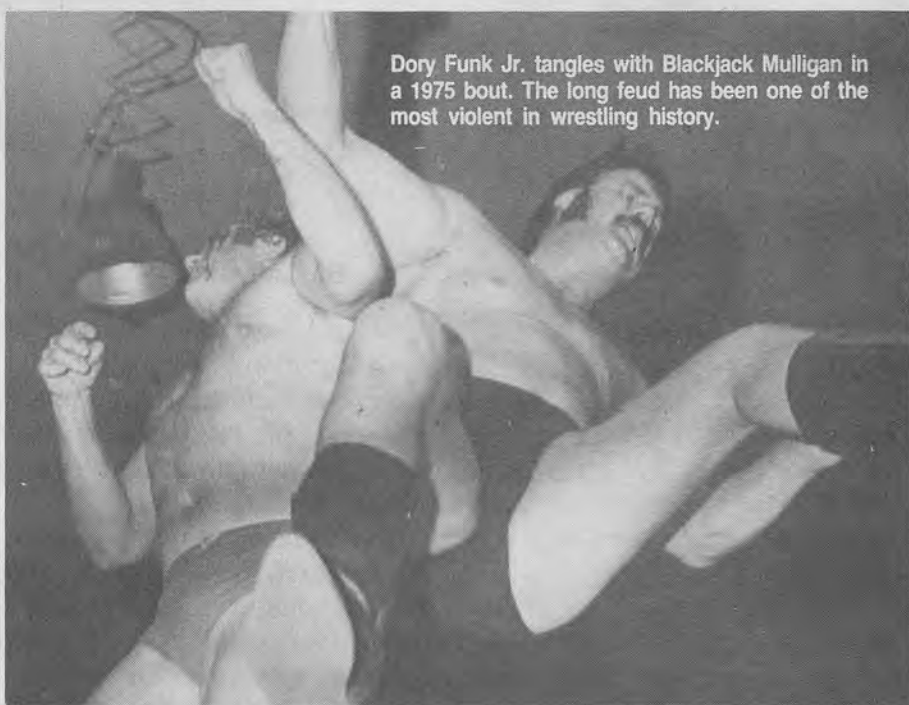
By Matt Brock

"Texas fans have for too long been admiring the second rate, the rotten, and the simple. Terry and Dory Funk are a bad joke that long ago ceased to be funny. All they are now is a pain in the butt!"

—Blackjack Mulligan, *The Wrestler*, May 1975

THEY'RE OLDER. THEY'RE grayer. They've slowed down a step or two. Other than that, nothing has changed much. Dory and Terry Funk still hate Blackjack Mulligan as much today as the day they first met him—and the feeling is mutual.

"For years, that yellow dog went around calling himself the greatest wrestler ever to come from Texas," Dory Funk Jr. said recently. "Well, I can name a bunch of Texans who were better. There's Dusty Rhodes, the Von Erichs, Wahoo McDaniel, and Bobby Duncum. And myself and my brother, Terry, we're both former NWA World champions. Where does that unwashed hick rate on *that* list? That big rube is an insult to our great state."



Dory Funk Jr. tangles with Blackjack Mulligan in a 1975 bout. The long feud has been one of the most violent in wrestling history.

"I'll never forget when Blackjack Lanza and I wrestled the Funks for the first time back in 1974," said Mulligan, still an imposing presence at well over 300 pounds. "I bent the rules a little in those days, and the Funks were known for their scientific talents. But when the four of us got in the ring, all hell broke loose. It was total war, mainly because the Funks were out to prove they were Texas' best wrestlers. I've

never agreed with that opinion, and I've got a bunch of ugly scars to prove it."

The early Blackjacks-Funks matches were classics in the great Texas wrestling tradition. Held all across the Lone Star State in 1974 and 1975, these matches were famous for the raw cruelty displayed by all four of these legends. More serious injuries took place in these matches

(Continued on page 56)

Hercules, Studd, Patera,



HERCULES



JOHN STUDD



KEN PATERA

By Andy Rodriguez

BOBBY HEENAN ISN'T known as the "Weasel" for nothing. He's notorious for his ability to get himself, and his wrestlers, out of sticky situations. But Heenan's *really* in hot water now, and this time there's no way out!

Imagine being the target of Harley Race, John Studd, Hercules Hernandez, and Ken Patera, four of the toughest men in wrestling. All four have so much experience, they're not likely to be fooled by one of Heenan's tricks. And because they were all once members of Heenan's stable, they know *exactly* what he's up to.

Yes, if you're Bobby Heenan, the nights are long and sleepless. Every mysterious, unexplained sound could be your worst nightmare about to come true. Every time Heenan turns his back at ringside, or in a locker room, he's

likely to be attacked by one of these four men. Maybe they won't attack him head-on; maybe they'll use one of Heenan's favorite tricks and get him when he least expects it.

Even Andre the Giant, Rick Rude, and King Haku, the few remaining members of Heenan's stable, can't help him. After all, how can they protect him *every* moment? And Heenan, certainly can't expect help from Terry Taylor, a.k.a. Little Red Rooster. With each day, Heenan drops lower on Taylor's list of favorite people. Before long, even Taylor might join the anti-Heenan brigade, turning it into a ghastly quintet of horror.

There's no way out.

The main question is, how did Heenan manage to get himself into such a terrible situation in the first place? Heenan, of course, has always been a selfish man.

He didn't become the most hated manager in the WWF by showing concern for others.

Heenan, it's been said, has stolen Humane Society canisters from 7-Eleven counters across the country. He reportedly once told a blind man trying to cross Park Avenue in New York City during rush hour that it was okay to walk when the "Don't Walk" sign shone brightly and dozens of cabs sped down the thoroughfare at dangerous speeds.

Bobby Heenan is not a nice man.

Patera, Race, Studd, and Hernandez are not nice men, either. They do, however, have feelings, which is more than can be said about the "Weasel." They foolishly thought Heenan cared about their well-being, not realizing his mottos are "out of sight, out of

(Continued on page 48)

& Race Out For Blood:



HARLEY RACE



**HOW CAN
HEENAN
WEASEL
OUT OF THIS ONE?**

Bobby Heenan can't turn his back. He can't sleep at night. There are four mean, tough men out to get him, and it's all his own fault. The "Weasel" will reap what he has sown, and what he has sown is the hatred of Hercules, John Studd, Ken Patera, and Harley Race!

INTERVIEW

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

IT MAIMS. IT slices. It dices. But does it talk?

Most fans recognize Abdullah the Butcher as wrestling's silent sadist, a man who has left a trail of gore and broken bodies in arenas all over the world. But they've never heard this 360-pound oddity utter a syllable.

Until now.

In a remarkable twist of fate, Abdullah actually offered *Sports Review Wrestling* an interview. The background on how this interview came to be is almost as unusual as the interview itself. Here's what happened:

In his haste to get back to the locker room following a recent match, Abdullah knocked down Assistant Editor Bob Smith, who was standing in the aisle with his back to the ring as Abdullah made his dash. Not surprisingly, Abdullah's manager, Gary Hart, was frantic about the situation. Fearing a possible lawsuit, Hart invited Smith to the locker room, suddenly becoming gracious and pleasant. Smith, uninjured but extremely wary, wondered what was on Hart's devious mind. Hart offered Smith that rarest of opportunities: a chance to engage in an actual conversation with Abdullah.

With Abdullah's history of being led by the sport's most devious managers, it's no wonder the Sudanese madman has had little chance to talk. He's used men like J.J. Dillon, Paul Jones, Eddie Creachman, and Chicky Starr as managers. For some reason, though, Abdullah always returns to Hart.

Hart calls Abdullah "wrestling's all-time greatest bounty hunter," a claim



Every wrestler's nightmare rolled into a 360-pound package. That's Abdullah the Butcher, the Sudanese madman who has been terrorizing rings around the world for the past two decades. His manager, Gary Hart, can barely control him.

that's hard to dispute. The Butcher's classic feuds with Dusty Rhodes, Bruiser Brody, and Carlos Colon have gone down in history as some of the most bloody and brutal wars in the history of the sport.

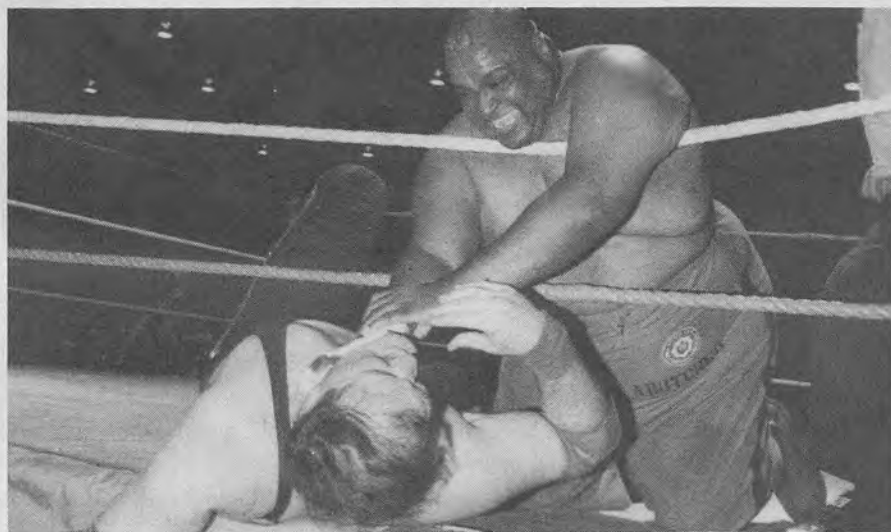
Hart has now brought this monster to the NWA. Who are the opponents

Abdullah wants to carve up next? Why does he display such a terrifying lust for blood?

Thanks to Hart, Smith got the opportunity to find out. Hart translated Abdullah's Sudanese into English so Smith could conduct this very strange interview with a very strange man.



Abdullah drives a foreign object into Dusty Rhodes' forehead, deepening the wound that's already copiously spurting blood (above). The Butcher savages Sgt. Slaughter in the ropes during a 1986 bout in Pennsylvania (below).



Q: Abdullah, I welcome this interview, although I must admit that I'm absolutely terrified of you. When you ran me down, it felt like I had been hit by a truck!

A: I do not want to talk to you, Gary? (*Abdullah speaks with Hart.*) Gary says I should speak to you, but I do not know why. Very well. I did not see you in the aisle. I was on my way back to this locker room.

Q: Fair enough. But once again, you used at least two foreign objects that I saw to dismantle your rookie opponent tonight. He's in pretty rough shape because of you. Why do you love to break open wrestlers like you do?

A: It is my goal in life. I do not care if I win or lose my wrestling matches. I do not care about money. I do not care about anything except ruining my opponents.

There are men I have to destroy, and I take great pleasure in making them bleed and suffer.

Q: Why? Wrestling is a very lucrative profession, and you've had the opportunity to wrestle for literally hundreds of championships in the last two decades.

A: I do not care. I am not a *wrestler*, as you say. I don't care about titles. I don't know many holds, although I do know a great deal about karate. My goal is to destroy the men that Gary Hart has chosen for me to meet. The only part I do not like is when the American officials make me stop when I am making someone bleed to death.

Q: Well, murder *is* illegal in America.

A: That is not how it was where I was born in Sudan. There, when a man tries to steal from you or hurt you, you are justified in doing the same back to him. That is my philosophy in the ring as well. When Gary tells me to hurt someone, it is a signal in my brain. I am enraged.

Q: Is that why Gary puts the executioner's hood on your head before your matches?



Junkyard Dog goes after Abdullah with Hart's kendo stick at the Starrcade Bunkhouse Stampede (above). The Butcher looks to take a bite out of Kendall Windham's head (below). Abdullah has battled Kendall's father, Blackjack Mulligan.



A: Many times, he will tell me to go after someone I have never seen before, so I begin lashing out at the first person I see. Many times, I maim people in the locker room not knowing what I am doing. It is my natural instinct to destroy. He shields my eyes until it is time to do battle.

Q: Who do you want to do battle with now? You've been in the NWA for a few months . . .

A: What is this NWA?

Q: Why, that's the federation you're wrestling in!

A: What is federation?

Q: That's the governing body that sanctions the matches you appear in.

A: I do not understand. I do not care. Those things do not concern me.

Q: Anyway, who are the men that you want to wrestle at this point?

A: I recognize that Dusty Rhodes man. I would like to try to take his eyes out, like I almost did in the state of Florida long ago. I see Barry Windham, who is Blackjack Mulligan's son, as Gary has told me. I had many wars with his father, so I should try to cripple the young one, too. And then there is this Junkyard Dog, who tried to hurt me during the match where many other warriors were trying to hurt each other.

Q: You must mean the Bunkhouse

Stampede match at Starrcade '88, where Junkyard threw you over the top rope to win the bout.

A: Whatever you say. He is another that must suffer. As for others, I don't really care. I want to make them all bleed and scream in terror.

Q: You're a big man, and your flying elbow is one of the most effective in the history of the sport. So why do you use things like forks, knives, and other foreign instruments during your matches? Don't you know it's against the rules?

A: Those are *your* rules. I enjoy raking skin from foreheads and necks. It allows me to weaken and subdue my foes quickly and easily. When the blood starts to flow into a

man's eyes, his heart becomes filled with terror, and he becomes easier to subdue. Also, I like the taste of the blood.

Q: What? You *enjoy* the taste of blood?

A: Certainly. I enjoy eating the flesh of all animals. Gary has told me not to do it in the ring, though.

Q: Fear of a suspension?

A: No. He said there are some bad diseases in blood these days. That is too bad. I love to eat. It is my greatest pleasure. I eat anything. I love hamburgers, hot dogs, raw chicken, gizzards, any kind of meat. I am a meat-eater.

Q: I wouldn't have guessed that you're a vegetarian. Your outlook on life bothers me, though. You seem like

you have no sense of humor at all.

A: Not so, I like to laugh. Gary, give me your coins.

Q: Ugh! Abdullah, I appreciate the joke, but unless you get those quarters out of the grooves in your head, I think I'm going to throw up.

A: You haven't seen anything yet.

Q: Oh, no, don't stick pencils in there! You're . . . auughh, you're starting to bleed now! Aren't you worried about infections?



Abdullah has been known to do some bizarre things, like eat David Crockett's notes at the podium. He may be disgusting, but he's exciting to watch.

A: (laughing) -I don't feel anything. My stupid opponents think they have hurt me when they cut open my head, but I don't even feel it. That's what makes me so invincible. I like to bleed. It fascinates me. I like to take the blood from my head and rub it in my opponents' eyes.

Q: Please, let's change the subject. Does it bother you that the fans do not like you?

A: That does not matter. To me, the people who watch me are only in my way. Many times, I have lashed out at them as well when they tried to attack me. It does not matter. If they do not like me, it is not my concern. I do not want those diseased Americans around me, anyway.

Q: Well, Abdullah, I thank you for this interview. I think I know how Geraldo Rivera felt after he interviewed Charles Manson.

A: Who is Rivera? Who is Manson? Get me out of here, Gary. I am hungry. ☐

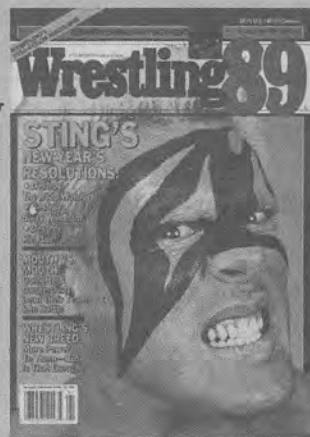
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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 7)

WHO'S THE WIMP?

This letter is in response to the letter in your January 1989 issue from Tina Lopez ("The Royal King") about Kerry Von Erich being a "wimp" because Jerry Lawler knocked him out. I feel I should bring out a few facts that prove Lawler is a wimp and Kerry is the *true* World champion:

- Lawler had broken his fist and was wearing a cast when he hit Kerry in their Dallas match. Then he tried to steal Kerry's belt when the match hadn't even started.

- Lawler said he would restore honor to the AWA title that was lost when Hennig had the belt. He's done this by throwing opponents over the top rope and using illegal weapons.

- Kerry has fought his way to the top in an attempt to regain his belt with integrity and class.

- Lawler has gone back to throwing fireballs. One victim was Ronnie Garvin. The reason Lawler gave for his action was Garvin cheated, so he had

the right. This is what Lawler once spoke out against, calling people that did these things cowards. Now he's doing the same thing.

Kerry doesn't need to cheat, use casts, or throw fireballs to retain a title; Lawler obviously does. So, you fans decide who is the true wimp. My money's on Lawler.

DAWN BLANKENSHIP
St. Louis

THE ULTIMATE CHAMPIONS

The Ultimate Warrior is WWF Intercontinental champion, but why *only* I-C champion? This guy has all the necessary strength to dethrone Randy Savage. Savage is pitiful. He doesn't deserve the title. He remains World champion only because he has friends like Hulk Hogan, Hacksaw Duggan, and Jake Roberts to help him. I hope to see the "Macho Girl" hanging high—from the throat!—from the top of the strong arms of The Ultimate Warrior.

Now I would like to talk about "Nature Boy" Ric Flair. I know my opinion is not shared by a lot of fans, but I really believe Flair is the greatest champion of all time, next to the Warrior. Flair is strong, intelligent, and resourceful. The proof: He can hold on to his championship against a lot of super challengers, such as Sting and Lex Luger.

Flair is 6'1", 243 pounds, and he knows all the holds. Sure, he's a bad guy and, for some people, he represents evil. But he stays champion. Flair is the best champion of all time.

THIERRY DANDANEAU
Asbestos, Quebec

STARRCADE CRITIQUE

Now that Starrcade '88 is history, I have a couple of comments to make about the card. First of all, Starrcade was one of the best shows I've seen in a long time, better than the Great American Bash, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I spent \$15 to watch it on

(Continued on page 46)



Kerry Von Erich puts the iron claw on the man who captured his World Class title, Jerry Lawler. Reader Dawn Blankenship says Lawler is a cheating coward.

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THE Wrestler



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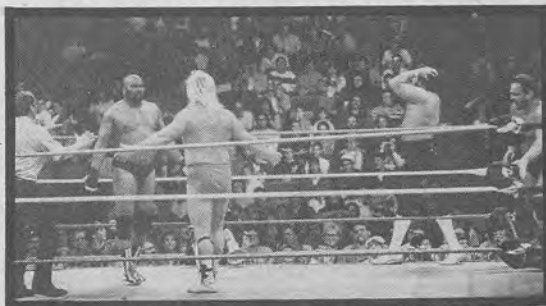
Giant failure! It's all over for **ANDRE THE GIANT** . . . NWA power struggle: **THE ROAD WARRIORS** vs. **STING** and **LEX LUGER** . . . **THE BRITISH BULLDOGS'** triumphant return to Stampede . . . "Q & A" interview with **MIKE ROTUNDO** . . . "Spotlight" on **THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**

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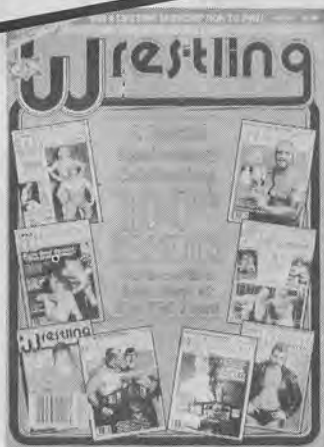
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Message to **HULK HOGAN** and **RANDY SAVAGE**: Forget **ELIZABETH**, just wrestle! . . . Exclusive interview with **RONNIE GARVIN**: "Money is the bottom line!" . . . Now off the WWF treadmill, **DON MURACO** is magnificent again! . . . **ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL** and **DUSTY RHODES** face off "One on One"

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 44)

pay-per-view TV, and it was definitely money well spent.

As for the wrestlers themselves, Barry Windham and Ric Flair once again proved why they're champions. Both of them appeared beaten several times, but they always bounced back. Bam Bam Bigelow and Lex Luger are definitely stars of the future, but that will be a time when Windham and Flair are no longer wrestling.

Steve Williams and Kevin Sullivan scored one of the biggest upsets of all time; I'd rank it right up there with The Iron Sheik beating Bob Backlund for the WWF title five years ago. It's hard to believe that this makeshift team was able to beat a duo like The Fantastics, one of the best teams in the world. And how about Rick Steiner! I've experienced some great thrills in my five years of watching wrestling, but none like watching Steiner's reac-

tion after he beat Mike Rotundo for the TV title.

All in all, Starrcade '88 was full of great memories. I can't wait for Starrcade '89!

JERRY NAGLE
Phoenix, AZ

IN GILBERT HE TRUSTS

I am writing in response to Mary Lowell's letter in your February 1989 issue ("A Gilbert Gaffe"). She stated that Eddie Gilbert is not to be trusted and should be banned from wrestling for life. I beg to differ.

If you banned Gilbert, you would also have to ban half of the wrestling world, people like The Road Warriors who are not just wrestlers, but optometrists. And what about Jim Cornette?



Eddie Gilbert may not be the most trustworthy person in the world, writes reader Neil Clarkson, but he's a great wrestler who is always underestimated.

If you thought Gilbert could throw fireballs, you should see Cornette in action!

Many people have turned from rule-breaker to fan favorite and were easily forgiven. Gilbert is just one of the many. He has unlimited wrestling skills, and to underestimate his friendship is a mistake. Fan favorite or rule-breaker, Gilbert is the most underrated wrestler of our time. Some of us look at his skills, not his past record.

NEIL CLARKSON
Utahville, PA □

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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 16)

er sometimes brings that stupid dog of his to the ring. This is potentially a problem in every wrestling league. The powers that be better put their heads together and find a solution to this problem soon. And while they're at it, ban managers, too. Let's make wrestling a true one-on-one sport, like boxing."

Elizabeth Pallio, Union City, NJ: "It depends on the animal. Snakes and dogs should definitely be banned, because they are really frightening. They can strike at any time. Parrots, on the other hand, are pretty harmless, unless you put your fingers in their beaks. The WWF president should decide on a case-by-case basis which animals will be allowed near the ring. That would be the fairest solution."



Jake Roberts wraps Damien around Rick Rude. Roberts' use of his snake bothers many fans.

Lucy Williams, Waco, TX: "If you got rid of the animals, more people would pay attention to the wrestling. That's good. But if there were no animals, there would be less entertainment, and that's bad. Not having these birds and dogs would make wrestling less fun. Wrestling's a sport, but you should have fun when you're watching it. Besides, I'd rather see Jake's snake get involved in a match than see two men bleed their guts out."

Hal Random, Baton Rouge, LA: "They shouldn't be banned, but I have my own question. What happened to The British Bulldogs' Matilda when they left the WWF? Could it be that Davey Boy Smith and Dynamite Kid really hated the mutt, and only took her to the ring with them because they were forced to be a part of the WWF circus? Now they wrestle in Stampede, and Matilda is nowhere to be found. Just a coincidence? I wish."

Antonio Jones, Fairfax, VA: "The WWF isn't wrestling anymore, it's Marlin Perkins' Wild Kingdom, for cryin' out loud! I'm surprised Terry 'Red Rooster' Taylor hasn't brought a rooster to the ring. Maybe Dr. Dolittle should apply for a manager's license. Why not let every wrestler there have an animal? Then at least it would be fair. Let's hope this trend doesn't become widespread. I'd hate to see the NWA become a zoo, or the AWA a menagerie."

Sue Bankhead, Tacoma, WA: "I don't think there is anything wrong with what the WWF allows. As we all know, professional wrestling can be a little strange at times. Animals add to that bizarre atmosphere. I don't think anybody is going to lose a match because of an animal. The *real* animals are vicious men like Abdullah the Butcher and The Road Warriors. They see opponents not as competitors, but as prey to be hunted." ☐

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BOBBY HEENAN

(Continued from page 39)

mind," and "what have you done for *me* lately?"

Race was in the hospital last year for several months with a career-threatening injury. Heenan showed concern at first, but when it became clear Race would never return, he quickly began the search for a new "King." Heenan selfishly invoked the memory of Race to add importance to the crowning of Haku. But did he ever ask for Race's approval? Did he ever inquire on Race's updated health condition? Did he ever make a phone call?

No.

He also never thought Race could return. That was his worst mistake.

Race has complained about this several times. He is angry that Heenan said he was through, then crowned *another* man "King." Most WWF insiders agree this was the last straw. Race was proud of his "King" title, and didn't take its loss lightly.



Bobby Heenan crowned Harley Race as the "King" in 1986 (above), but by last June he had already coronated a new "King" in Haku (below). Race is now vowing to end his former manager's career.



Studd, of course, was out of wrestling for nearly two years before his return. He is a proud man. Standing 6'10" and weighing 364 pounds—most of it muscle—he is also a very big man. He is talented, loyal, and probably would have returned to Heenan's stable.

But then Heenan and Brother Love made the mistake of bruising Studd's ego with the suggestion that Studd never would have been successful without Heenan. Preposterous! Studd is an outstanding athlete who certainly would have enjoyed success on his own. He knows this, and the fans know this. Now Heenan will know it, too.

Why is Patera mad? Well, how would you like to sit in prison for several years, waiting patiently for the phone call or visit that never came from the man who was your mentor for several years? When Patera was finally released from prison, Heenan constantly referred to him as a "jailbird." Patera was trying to put his past behind him, but Heenan kept bringing it up. Understandably, Patera vowed revenge.

Perhaps Hercules has the best reason for hating Heenan. Heenan tried to sell him outright to Ted DiBiase as a slave. How could Heenan feel he had the right to buy and sell Hernandez, or any human being? Hercules was rightfully insulted. Hercules is currently after DiBiase, but Heenan will certainly have his day, as he was the man who engineered the plot in the first place.

Yes, Heenan will pay a high price for all he has done. He turned his back on men who were his friends and colleagues. Unfortunately for Heenan, those men are tough, strong, and angry.

How will Heenan weasel out of this one?

The answer is simple: He can't. It can't be too nice to be Bobby Heenan right now. ☐

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LOCKER ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

(Continued from page 12)

ter 19 minutes and 46 seconds, Luger caught Flair in an excruciatingly painful figure-four leglock. But Flair fought his way out after 40 of the longest seconds of his life. He just wouldn't give up.

When was the last time you saw Ric Flair concentrate on anything but the situation at hand when he had an opponent in trouble? When was the last time you saw Ric Flair do anything but think about winning a match? Sure, he's full of himself, and he spends a lot of time strutting around the ring, but a different Flair surfaces when the match is on the line.

Luger, on the other hand, finds time to flex a muscle and show off his good looks to the fans. "The Lex Flex," I call it. I had to ask him: Why?

"I did no such thing," Luger insisted, disputing what tapes of the match proved to be true. "Maybe that's what it looked like I was doing, but I was just getting ready for the victory. I had Flair beaten and he only escaped by some kind of miracle. But I'm not concerned. I'll get another chance."

That's what *he* thinks. Luger, apparently, still had not been told of Flair's declaration. When I told him, he reacted with anger.

"There's no way he can do that!" Luger screamed. "I'm the top contender, and he has an obligation to wrestle me, *especially* after I've come so close so many times. He knows I can beat him, he's just running scared."

More accurately, Luger was the top contender. But after so many failures, he's given up that spot to Sting, Rick Steiner, or perhaps even Rick Steamboat, now set for a possible return to the NWA. Flair's right: A person deserves only so many chances. After a



Luger goes for the hammerlock on Flair, who announced at Starrcade that he would give the "Total Package" no more title shots. Apter thinks men like Sting, Rick Steiner, and Eddie Gilbert should receive title matches ahead of Luger.

while, it's time to move on to something new.

Is Flair bored with Luger?

"That's about right, Bill," Flair said. "I'm a champ and I need a challenge. You see, Luger's been solved. I'll admit this much: He's come very close to beating me, but he can't go over the top. I know what I have to do to escape him. I know what it takes. When I hit him with the chair, I knew it would affect him later. He doesn't

have the tolerance to pain I have. He's not willing to make the sacrifices necessary to become champion. I'm not wrestling him again because he doesn't deserve it."

Of course, the Luger story isn't over. Chances are he'll get another chance someday. He might even benefit from this experience and learn how to become champion. Until then, he must step aside. It's time for some new blood. □

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 February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.
 May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.
 October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.
 January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
 June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.
 September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.
 November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.
 December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.
 March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
 April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
 May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
 June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
 July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
 August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.
 October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
 November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.
 December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.
 January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.
 February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.
 March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.
 April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.
 May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.
 June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.
 July 1983/Vallant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.
 October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.
 November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.
 January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.
 February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.
 March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.
 April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.
 May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
 June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.
 July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.
 August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
 September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
 October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
 November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!
 December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
 January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*, Valentine.
 February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
 March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
 April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.
 May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
 June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
 July 1985/Von Erich, *WrestleMania*, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
 August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
 September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
 October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
 November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
 January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
 February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
 March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.
 April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
 May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
 June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
 July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
 August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
 September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Luger, Dundee, UWF tourney.
 October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.
 November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
 December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.
 January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
 February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Luger, 1987 Datebook.
 March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
 April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.
 May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
 June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
 July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
 August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
 September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
 October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.
 November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.
 December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
 February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
 March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
 April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
 May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.
 June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.
 July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
 August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.
 September 1988/Predictions Through 1988, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.
 October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.
 November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.
 December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.
 January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.
 February 1989/The Champions in '89, Duggan, Roberts, 1989 datebook.
 March 1989/1988 in Pictures, Taylor, Simmons, Wrestlers Then & Now.

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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

several times, and a lighter travel schedule is a possibility; Elizabeth would join Savage only for important matches and special appearances.

In other WWF news, Rick Rude and Hillbilly Jim are embroiled in a red-hot feud. At a recent Madison Square Garden card, Rude was about to give a young female fan a kiss when Hillbilly Jim climbed into the ring and kissed the woman. Rude went on the attack, but Hillbilly fought back and sent Rude fleeing to the dressing room. The two have signed for a series of matches.

Rude's assault on the WWF title, by the way, appears to have been brief and unsuccessful. He was easily pinned by Savage several times and doesn't figure to get any title shots in the foreseeable future.

—Alison Corey



BOB BACKLUND

OSAKA, JAPAN: Former WWF World champion Bob Backlund returned to the ring for the first time since October 5, 1984, and lost to Nobuhiko Takada in an outstanding 25-minute scientific battle.

Takada locked Backlund in a tortuous chicken wing/armlock combination for over a minute, but Backlund refused to give up. Finally, referee Masami Soranaka stopped the match and awarded it to Takada when he ruled the hold unable to be broken.

"I could've continued, but either way, it was great to be back in the ring," Backlund said. "Hopefully this is just the beginning. I'd really like to get back in the swing of things, maybe wrestle for a world title again and prove to the world that I haven't lost it. I think I proved tonight I'm still one of the best scientific wrestlers around."

The loss brought on a case of *deja vu* for Backlund. Back on December 26, 1983, Backlund's WWF title reign of nearly four years 10 months came to an end when The Iron Sheik caught him in a camel clutch. Backlund refused to submit, but his man-

ager, Arnold Skaaland, threw in the towel because he felt the move could end Backlund's career.

Backlund is still angered by Skaaland's decision, and is looking for a match with the Sheik. "Our day will come," Backlund insisted. "I'll get back at Sheik one day, but I guess this just isn't the time. Being in Japan again is great, though. The wrestling here is the best in the world. Everybody here really knows the scientific part of the sport."

—Masanori Murikami

DALLAS, TX: Eric Embry's fourth World Class light heavyweight title reign ended here on December 31 after only 18 days—but not without considerable controversy. Cactus Jack defeated Embry, thanks to interference by manager Gen. Skandor Akbar, but here's the catch: Jack, who weighs 247 pounds, *isn't* a light heavyweight!

The World Class legal limit for light heavyweights is 230 pounds, so Jack was 17 pounds over the limit; Embry weighs 225 pounds. Apparent-

ly, matchmaker Frank Dusek approved the match without first checking WCCW guidelines.

The match, in fact, wasn't even scheduled for December 31. Embry, however, said in a televised interview that he was leaving on a tour to defend the belt in Australia and Japan. Akbar and Cactus Jack then appeared and challenged Embry to defend the title in Dallas.

Embry, who has exercised an open-door policy in title defenses, agreed to wrestle Jack. Dusek approved the match and Bronco Lubich was the assigned referee. After 12 minutes, Lubich was briefly stunned in a collision with Jack. Akbar then climbed onto the ring apron and hit Embry with a foreign object. When Lubich recovered, Jack



CACTUS JACK

had Embry covered for the pin.

"My complaint isn't about the weights, it's about what Akbar did," Embry said. "I agreed to wrestle Jack, so that's all that counts. But I assumed it would be a fair match. That was my mistake."

Dusek, however, said the result could be overturned. "I overlooked the weight problem," Dusek said. "I'm not sure it's right to have a 247-pound man defending a light heavy-weight title. It's unfair to the other contenders."

—Andrew Ray

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HOGAN VS. SAVAGE

(Continued from page 35)

Until the two actually do meet in the ring, an analysis of how they've fared recently against common opponents indicates which grappler will enter that war with the clearer advantage.

Little has changed since mid-1987 when these two last exchanged blows. Hogan remains short on skill but long on courage and resolve. Nowhere has this been better demonstrated than against Andre the Giant. The Giant, himself slow and plodding, has battered Hogan in several of their encounters, but each time Hogan has rallied dramatically for victory. In the rest of their matches, Hogan has been a dominant and formidable opponent, handling Andre as no other wrestler has, reducing the Giant to mortal size.

Meanwhile, Savage's game plan—a dizzying display of aerial tactics so effective against Hogan—has been essentially useless against the Giant. In each of their matches, Savage has been fortunate to retain his belt, usually via timely disqualification.

"It is difficult to overcome a size differential of that magnitude," says former WWF World champion Bruno Sammartino. "Somehow Savage manages to negotiate the four inches and 70 pounds he gives away to Hogan. But Andre is just too doggone big for him. Andre is a sitting duck for all of his opponents, especially one possessing Savage's speed and tenacity. But he is still impenetrable. His size allows him to absorb inhuman amounts of punishment while all he has to do is land just one blow to defeat his man.

"Savage can't hurt him," Sammartino continued. "He can weaken him, but he can't put him away. I don't think Andre can defeat Savage—'Macho Man' is too



Hogan and Savage square off in a June 1987 match in Rochester (above). Hogan lifts Savage by the throat in mid-1986, the height of their feud. Back then, the "Hulkster" was champion, but now Savage is on top and Hogan is determined to regain the title.

fast for him—but I feel Andre is more of a threat to Savage's crown than Hogan is."

Despite some anxious moments, both Savage and Hogan have been able to prevail in their matches against Bad News Brown and Big Bossman. Once again, Hogan's size, power, and strength of character proved the difference in his matches.

Big Bossman, the ex-prison guard, had Hogan tied up—literally!—in their latest encounter. As usual, it wasn't until things looked darkest that Hogan launched his rally. Hogan handcuffed Bossman to the ringpost and assaulted him with punches and forearms before decisioning him.

"It may seem funny, daddy, but I look at Hogan and he has a lot of Ric Flair in him," says legendary WWF tag team manager Capt. Lou Albano. "They both manage to turn every match they're in, regardless of their opponent's strength or lack thereof,

into a titanic struggle."

Despite some boisterous threats, Brown provided little opposition for Hogan. The "Hulkster" has been controlling Brown with relative ease, resulting in several pinfall victories nationwide, plus a high number of instances where Brown simply allows himself to be counted out of the ring in order to avoid further punishment.

Bad News was more effective against Savage, although he has also been pinned by the WWF champ. Savage has retained his crown against Bossman, but he suffered the indignity of Elizabeth having to come to his rescue.

What does it all mean?

"Hogan intimidates opponents by his size and the aura of invincibility surrounding Hulkamania," Sammartino says. "He enjoys a physical and psychological advantage against almost all his opponents. Savage's presence in the ring, on the other hand, is formi-



dable, but it is not larger than life. Opponents feel they can defeat Savage. Savage must work hard for each victory."

Indeed. But perhaps even Savage can't work hard enough for a victory over Hogan. Where the "Hulkster" has had little trouble with Brown and Bossman, Savage has struggled; where Hogan has been able to chop Andre down to size, Savage's vaunted aerial skills have had little effect.

If a study of common opponents is all one considers, then Hogan will be a clear winner in the next Hogan-Savage battle. But consider also the fact that the "Hulkster" is undergoing a revitalization of attitude. It's been said by some that Hogan hasn't looked this determined since his return to the WWF and his subsequent defeat of The Iron Sheik for the World belt in early 1984. The fact is, he hasn't. There are many reasons for this determination, but only one result: a stronger, more powerful, more competitive ex-champion, the kind of man that any competitor—that any *champion*—would deeply fear.

Which brings us back to the question posed in the headline: Who's better—Hogan or Savage?

Sorry, "Macho Man." Sorry, Elizabeth. The answer is all too clear:

Hulk Hogan. ☐

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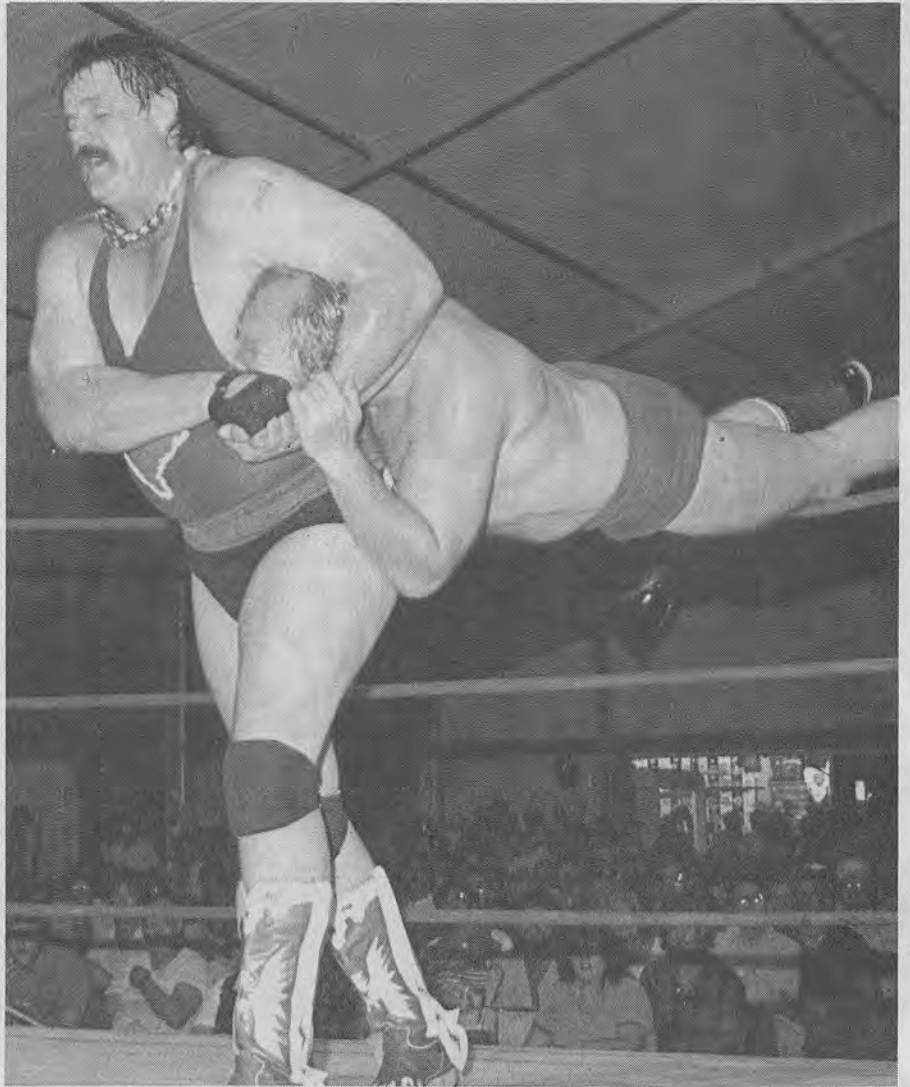
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FUNK VS. MULLIGAN

(Continued from page 37)



Mulligan dumps Dory (left) and pulls him back into the ring (above) during the recent renewal of their feud in West Palm Beach, Florida. The years haven't softened the strong feelings of hatred between these two bitter rivals.

than in any other matches in Texas wrestling history, including dozens of bones broken and untold amounts of blood spilled. Later, both Funk brothers met Mulligan in horribly violent singles bouts across the country.

Their physical wounds have since healed, and contemporaries like Lanza have long since retired. All three had announced that they were semi-retired in recent months, content to pursue outside interests—until a chance meeting at a small wrestling card recently rekindled the long-dormant animosity. Instantly, the Funk-Mulligan war was reborn!

The latest installment of this feud came in December in West

Palm Beach, Florida. Officials of the Southern Wrestling Federation asked both Funks about wrestling on an upcoming card. But both Dory and Terry declined. Dory is now busy with a prospering mortgage and investment firm in nearby Ocala, Florida. Terry, an actor, is working on a movie script.

When the promoter told the Funks, however, that they had Mulligan's name on an open contract for the card, they both smiled and asked for a pen. It would be Dory who would wrestle Mulligan, but Terry made sure he was signed to the card as well. The reason would become obvi-

ous later on.

"I can't believe this," said Dory before signing the contract. "It's been years since we last locked up, but just seeing his name on contract makes me feel 20 years younger. I can't wait to get my hands on that creep."

Throwing his vast scientific repertoire to the wind, Funk surprised the fans by wrestling savagely. Mulligan expected a rough match, but he didn't expect Funk to try to destroy him.

"What is this, 1977 again?" Mulligan asked afterward. "When they offered me a bout with Dory Funk, I thought it might turn out

to be a great scientific match. I'm trying to wrestle clean these days. Boy, was I mistaken! I was prepared to let bygones be bygones, but it was clear that Dory *still* hasn't learned anything about messin' with this big ol' boy."

And so he did. Even though Florida is a long way from Texas, this battle was every bit as intense as any of their matches of the past. In the end, it was outside interference by Terry that led to a disqualification victory for Mulligan, but the sound of the final bell meant little. The enraged Mulligan was prepared to take on both Funks at the same time.

In the locker room, it was clear that this feud is a long way from being finished. The Funks and Mulligan all told the promoter that they wanted to meet again.

"I would've demolished Dory if it wasn't for his coward brother," griped Mulligan. "It looks like Terry hasn't changed at all, the little worm. If that's the way they wanna play it, I'll take both those wimps on at once. I could wipe the mat with those idiots 15 years ago, and I can *still* beat the snot out of 'em today. I'm just gettin' started with those bums."

"It's just like Mulligan to accept a fluke victory," screamed Terry. "Y'know, I've had a good, long career, and so has Dory. We could both retire from wrestling forever if we wanted to. But now we've got some unfinished business to take care of. We've got to get even with Mulligan. We'll give him a pasting that he'll *never* forget."

Texas has been proud of the Funks and Mulligan. If they were to retire today, they would surely go down in history as three of the greatest wrestlers of all time. But if this feud is allowed to continue, there may be more injuries, more blood, and more anguish. It would be just like the '70s all over again.

It would be an ugly postscript to three legendary careers. ☐

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 18)



Cyclone Negro clamps a side headlock on Dick Murdoch. Negro had traveled to Texas hoping to collect the \$10,000 bounty that J.J. Dillon had put on Murdoch's head. Negro failed, but he did bloody Murdoch with a chair.

violent feud. Wrestling II defeated Woods in a hair vs. mask match in Atlanta. Woods received a standing ovation from the crowd as a barber shaved his head ... In a Los Angeles match, a fan threw a cup of beer into the bloody face of the Great Goliath. Goliath accused his enemy Victor Rivera of the act ... Cyclone Negro traveled to Texas with hopes of collecting the \$10,000 bounty J.J. Dillon had placed on Dick Murdoch. Negro failed to put his opponent out of wrestling and collect the bounty, but he did bloody Murdoch with a ringside chair ... Don Leo Jonathan brought the timekeeper's bell into the ring with him to use against Bruno Sammartino in Baltimore, but the WWF champ stole the bell away

and clobbered Jonathan, who fell out of the ring and was counted out ... Both Lord Al Hays and Ernie Ladd unexpectedly broke their contracts with Bobby Heenan, then promptly vowed to destroy the manager ... Red Bastien and The Great Mephisto were trying to eliminate each other from the Texas wrestling scene.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Jack Brisco; 2—The Sheik; 3—Moon-dog Mayne; 4—John Tolos; 5—Harley Race; 6—Terry Funk; 7—Dory Funk Jr.; 8—Andre the Giant; 9—Abdullah the Butcher; 10—Tim Woods.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Graham; 3—Billy Robinson; 4—Wahoo McDaniel; 5—The Crusher; 6—Ivan Koloff;

7—Ray Stevens; 8—Nick Bockwinkel; 9—Baron Von Raschke; 10—Ken Patera.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Pedro Morales; 3—Chief Jay Strongbow; 4—Killer Kowalski; 5—Nikolai Volkoff; 6—Stan Stasiak; 7—Don Leo Jonathan; 8—Larry Hennig; 9—Tony Garea; 10—Dean Ho.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens; 2—Dean Ho & Tony Garea; 3—Karl & Kurt Von Hess; 4—The Fabulous Kangaroos; 5—Prof. Toru Tanaka & Mr. Fuji; 6—Goliath & Black Gordman; 7—The Valiant Brothers; 8—Bruiser & Cowboy Bob Ellis; 9—The Kiwi Shepherders; 10—Stan Stasiak & Larry Hennig.

MARCH/APRIL

1979

JOHNNY AND JERRY Valiant, managed jointly by their brother Jimmy Valiant and by Capt. Lou Albano, defeated Larry Zbyszko and Tony Garea to win the WWF tag team championship ... Kevin Von Erich held the NWA World title—for five minutes. The title was given back to Harley Race because a second referee, not contracted to officiate in the title match, had made the decision after the first referee was knocked out of the ring ... Chief Jay Strongbow recovered from a broken leg suffered in a match with Greg Valentine. Strongbow promised to break both of Valentine's legs in retaliation ... In Florida, the Tampa Sports Authority voted Eddie Graham "Citizen of the Year" ... Bruno Sammartino was the subject of the *Greatest Sports Legends* TV series,

(Continued on page 60)

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PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis vs. Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mill Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita**, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.



MAY 1987

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.**, Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage**, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre**, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair**, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff**, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage**, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre**, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan**, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre**, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan**, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. **Sting**, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan**, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. **Four Horsemen**, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth**, Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts. **Luger**, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

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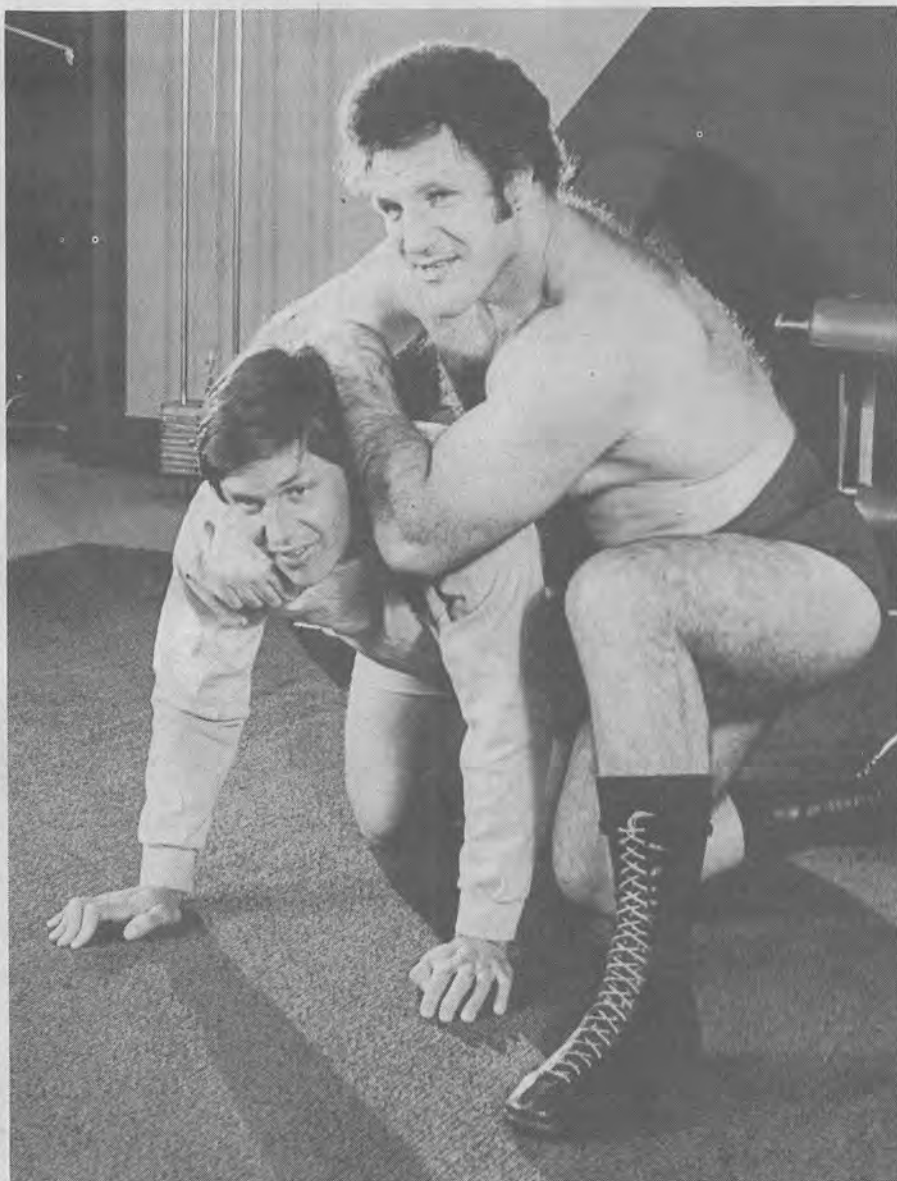
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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 58)



In 1979, Bruno Sammartino was the subject of the *Greatest Sports Legends* TV series, hosted by Tom Seaver. The "Living Legend's" second WWF World title reign had ended two years earlier, but he hadn't slowed down.

hosted by baseball great Tom Seaver ... The Magnificent M was unmasked as Don Muraco. After the unmasking, Muraco said he would defeat Jim Garvin and take his Florida State title ... Garvin, by the way, was winning respect as a Florida champion who defended his belt every week on TV ... On March 17, Dick Murdoch defeated Dick the Bruiser to win the Missouri title ... Ernie Ladd was issuing some bold challenges to U.S. champion Rick Steamboat.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Harley Race; 2—Ric Flair; 3—Dusty Rhodes; 4—Rick Steamboat; 5—Mr. Wrestling II; 6—Ken Patera; 7—Masked Superstar; 8—Dick Murdoch; 9—Jim Garvin; 10—Kevin Von Erich.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Jim Brunzell; 3—Billy Robinson; 4—Verne Gagne; 5—Greg Gagne; 6—Jerry Lawler; 7—Larry Hennig; 8—Ray Stevens; 9—Super Destroyer II; 10—Pat Patterson.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Back-

lund; 2—Bulldog Brower; 3—Greg Valentine; 4—Peter Maivia; 5—Dusty Rhodes; 6—Ivan Putski; 7—Ivan Koloff; 8—Victor Rivera; 9—Steve Travis; 10—Fred Curry.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Johnny & Jerry Valiant; 2—Paul Orndorff & Jimmy Snuka; 3—Ray Stevens & Pat Patterson; 4—Ken Patera & John Studd; 5—Ole Anderson & Ivan Koloff; 6—Jos LeDuc & Thor the Viking; 7—Bob Roop & Bob Orton Jr.; 8—Larry Zbyszko & Tony Garea; 9—Kevin & David Von Erich; 10—Eddy Mansfield & Leroy Brown.

MARCH/APRIL

1984

IN 1984, Stan Lane was involved in another dispute over a tag team name. After he and Steve Keirn had wrestled as The Fabulous Ones for two years, their manager, Jackie Fargo, split with the team and formed "Fargo's Fabulous Ones" with Tommy Rich and Eddie Gilbert. Soon af-

(Continued on page 62)



Jackie Fargo, a member of the original "Fabulous Ones" tag team in the 1950s, managed two teams with that name in 1984.

BACK ISSUES OF

Inside Wrestling

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August 1979/Stories include: Flair, Garvin, Race, Sammartino.

September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlingmania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.

June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlingmania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.

September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Luger, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.

April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.

May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.

March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.

April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.

May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.

June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.

September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Col-or coverage of WMV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.

October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.

November 1988/Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.

December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.

January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.

February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.

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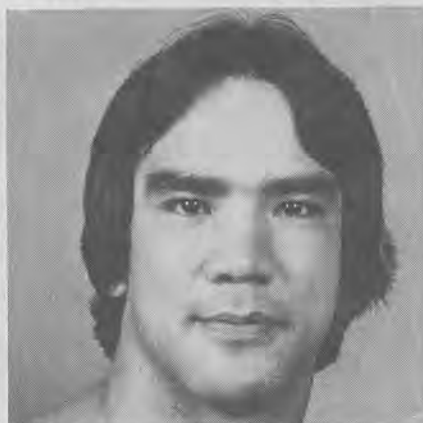
(Continued from page 60)

terward, Rich and Gilbert won the Mid-Southern tag team title ... Years before managing Harley Race in the WWF, Bobby Heenan managed him for several matches in St. Louis ... On April 17 in Hamburg, Pennsylvania, Adrian Adonis and Dick Murdoch defeated Rocky Johnson and Tony Atlas to win the WWF tag team belts ... Jim Garvin beat Chris Adams for the World Class Ameri-



Jim Garvin chinlocks Chris Adams. Garvin and Adams battled many times for the American title. Also involved in this feud were Precious and Sunshine.

can title when his valet, Precious, sprayed perfume in Adams' eyes. Two weeks later, Adams regained the belt ... Bobby Eaton and Dennis Condrey captured the Mid-South tag title from Mr. Wrestling II and Magnum T.A. when Wrestling II left the ring, leaving Magnum to fight for himself. It was the beginning of a bitter dispute between Magnum and his old mentor ... Jack and Jerry Brisco captured the NWA World tag title from Wahoo McDaniel and Mark Youngblood on April 4 in Spartanburg, South Carolina. McDaniel and Youngblood regained the title in Richmond, Virginia, on April 27 ... Rick Steamboat captured the U.S. title from Dick Slater on April



Rick Steamboat has won many titles throughout his career, including the U.S. championship. In 1984, he won that belt from Dick Slater.

21 in Greensboro, North Carolina ... Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo lost the U.S. tag team belts to Black Bart and Ron Bass on April 25.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Rick Steamboat; 3—The Spoiler; 4—Harley Race; 5—Ron Bass; 6—Angelo Mosca Jr.; 7—Carlos Colon; 8—Billy Jack; 9—Chris Adams; 10—Kerry Von Erich.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Hulk Hogan; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Tito Santana; 4—Bob Backlund; 5—Sgt. Slaughter; 6—David Shultz; 7—Paul Orndorff; 8—The Iron Sheik; 9—Jimmy Snuka; 10—Roddy Piper.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Jumbo Tsuruta; 2—Rick Martel; 3—Blackjack Mulligan; 4—Nick Bockwinkel; 5—Blackjack Lanza; 6—Jerry Lawler; 7—Larry Zbyszko; 8—Brad Rheingans; 9—Greg Gagne; 10—Mr. Saito.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Jack & Jerry Brisco; 2—Ken Patera & Crusher Blackwell; 3—The Road Warriors; 4—The Midnight Express; 5—Dick Murdoch & Adrian Adonis; 6—Super Destroyers I & II; 7—Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo; 8—Tommy Rich & Eddie Gilbert; 9—King Tonga & El Gran Apollo; 10—Pierre Lefebvre & Frenchy Martin.

BACK ISSUES OF



THE Wrestler

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August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Sammons, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Brisco.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Brisco, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloff.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Luger, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Luger, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Am, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Am, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloff, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

April 1988/Special issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class.

Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

September 1988/Stories include: Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.

October 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.

November 1988/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.

January 1989/Stories include: Kevin Von, Rougeaus, Horsemen, Hogan.

February 1989/Stories include: Warriors, Ultimate-Hogan, Bigelow-Gordy.

March 1989/Stories include: Jarrett, Flair, Jake-Andre, Bigelow-Windham.

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Wrestling



Sting

TOP 10

- 1 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
WWF World champion
- 2 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion
- 3 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
AWA World & WCCW champion
- 4 BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
U.S. heavyweight champion
- 5 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
No. 2 contender: NWA title
- 6 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
No. 3 contender: WWF title
- 7 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
No. 4 contender: NWA title
- 8 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
WWF Intercontinental champion
- 9 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
No. 2 contender: AWA & WCCW titles
- 10 BAD NEWS BROWN**
280, New York, NY
No. 2 contender: WWF title

TAG TEAMS

- 1 THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
NWA World tag team champions
- 2 DEMOLITION**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
WWF World tag team champions
- 3 PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
Combined weight: 456 pounds
AWA World tag team champions
- 4 STAN LANE & BOBBY EATON**
Combined weight: 462 pounds
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 5 STEVE WILLIAMS & KEVIN SULLIVAN**
Combined weight: 517 pounds
U.S. tag team champions
- 6 WARLORD & BARBARIAN**
Combined weight: 655 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 7 THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
Combined weight: 510 pounds
World Class tag team champions
- 8 DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 9 THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
Stampede Int'l tag team champions
- 10 ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN**
Combined weight: 473 pounds
CWA tag team champions

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
- 2—STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 4—LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 5—RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
- 6—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 7—MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 8—STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 9—JUNKYARD DOG**
305, Charlotte, NC
- 10—DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE

245, Sarasota, FL

- 1—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 2—BAD NEWS BROWN**
280, New York, NY
- 3—HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—BIG BOSSMAN**
348, Cobb County, GA
- 5—ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 6—THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 7—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 8—TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 9—JAKE ROBERTS**
247, Del City, OK
- 10—CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN

AWA

World Champion:
JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

- 1—GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 3—WAHOO McDANIEL**
280, Midland, TX
- 4—SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 5—THE IRON SHEIK**
263, Teheran, Iran
- 6—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 7—COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, South Africa
- 8—DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, MX
- 9—MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 10—ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

- 1—ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
- 2—KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 3—CACTUS JACK**
247, Truth or Consequences, NM
- 4—ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 5—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 6—KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX
- 7—SUPER BLACK NINJA**
245, Tokyo, Japan
- 8—BRICKHOUSE BROWN**
225, Winter Haven, FL
- 9—STEVE COX**
240, Portsmouth, VA
- 10—KAMALA**
360, Uganda

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5 RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 6 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 7 JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
- 8 HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 9 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 10 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1 BIG BOSSMAN**
348, Cobb County, GA
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 3 BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 4 ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 5 RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 6 BAD NEWS BROWN**
280, New York, NY
Last month: unrated
- 7 STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
- 8 MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
Last month: unrated
- 9 ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
Last month: unrated
- 10 ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated

For period ended January 5, 1989

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 1—RANDY SAVAGE | 97 points |
| 2—RIC FLAIR | 92 points |
| 3—JERRY LAWLER | 72 points |
| 4—LEX LUGER | 60 points |
| 5—STING | 50 points |

TAG TEAMS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS | 91 points |
| 2—DEMOLITION | 86 points |
| 3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE | 73 points |
| 4—THE FANTASTICS | 55 points |
| 5—PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND | 54 points |

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
DON MURACO

274, Sunset Beach, HI

- 1—JOHNNY SMITH**
235, Manchester, England
- 2—MAKHAN SINGH**
380, Saginaw, MI
- 3—LANCE IDOL**
225, Hollywood, CA
- 4—STEVE DISALVO**
298, Boston, MA
- 5—CHRIS BENOIT**
218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 6—BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 7—VULKAN SINGH**
300, Billings, MT
- 8—GAMA SINGH**
220, Karachi, Pakistan
- 9—STEVE BLACKMAN**
250, Pittsburgh, PA
- 10—BEEF WELLINGTON**
225, Lloydminster, Alberta

CWA

CWA Champion:
WENDELL COOLEY

220, Milton, FL

- 1—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 2—BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 3—SID VICIOUS**
290, parts unknown
- 4—ROBERT FULLER**
255, Dyresburg, TN
- 5—JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL
- 6—BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 7—ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
- 8—DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 9—RICK MORTON**
228, Memphis, TN
- 10—BRIAN LEE**
242, St. Petersburg, FL

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TOM PRICHARD

220, Houston, TX

- 1—BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
- 2—DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
- 3—BLACK BART**
261, Pampa, TX
- 4—THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 5—DOUG FURNAS**
265, Commerce, OK
- 6—ALAN MARTIN**
220, Houston, TX
- 7—TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
- 8—MASA CHONO**
250, Tokyo, Japan
- 9—JOHNNY RICH**
235, Hendersonville, TN
- 10—WILLIE B. HERT**
238, El Paso, TX

PNW

Pacific Northwest Champion:
TOP GUN

260, parts unknown

- 1—THE GRAPPLER**
250, parts unknown
- 2—COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, South Africa
- 3—STEVE DOLL**
236, Dallas, TX
- 4—SCOTT PETERSON**
242, Dallas, TX
- 5—ABUGHADIEN**
245, Iraq
- 6—MATT BORNE**
254, Portland, OR
- 7—BUDDY ROSE**
271, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—AL MADRIL**
245, Los Angeles, CA
- 9—REX KING**
230, Tampa, FL
- 10—KARL STYLES**
275, Nashville, TN

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Tracking Trends. Who's moving up, who's moving down, who's moving in, and who's moving out in our ratings ... and why? That's the purpose of Tracking Trends, a new monthly feature in "Ratings Analysis." In this space, we'll take an in-depth look at the ratings (although we won't analyze every wrestler rated).

Because this is the first month of Tracking Trends, we'll go a little more in-depth than usual. In future issues, we'll concentrate on only the most important moves.



Randy Savage

WWF World champion **Randy Savage** has been number one in the Top 10 for seven consecutive months; in the three months prior to that, he was number two ... NWA World tag team champs **The Road Warriors** have owned the top spot in the Tag Team ratings for three straight months ... How times have changed: **Dusty Rhodes** hasn't been rated in the Top 10 since June 1988, a run of 10 months.

The top three are unchanged in the Top 10 ... **Lex Luger** drops three spots to number seven, thanks in part to NWA World champ **Ric Flair**, who declared Luger would never receive another title shot ... **Sting** wrestled Flair to a 60-minute draw and moves up four spots to number five ... As **Barry Windham** gains respect and holds on to the U.S. title longer, he moves up in the ratings. He's up two spots to number four ... **Kerry Von Erich** lost his World Class title at SuperClash III and drops four spots to number nine ... **Andre the Giant** is out; **Bad News Brown** has been wrestling Savage and moves in.

The top three in the Tag Team ratings remain unchanged ... **Steve Williams & Kevin Sullivan** scored a shocking victory over **The Fantastics** for the U.S. tag belts and debut at number five; **The Fantastics** drop out ... **Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson** haven't risen as quickly as expected in the WWF and drop out of the tag team ratings ... **The British Bulldogs** won the Stampede International tag belts and return at number nine.

The reaction to **Rick Steiner's** NWA TV title victory over **Mike Rotundo** at Starrcade '88 was the reason behind Steiner's move from seven to five in the Most Popular category ... **Big Bossman** is still number one in the Most Hated ratings, but as fans begin to choose sides, look for either **Hulk Hogan** or **Savage** to make a run at this dubious honor ... An attack on WWF President **Jack Tunney** and bad words for **Elizabeth** earned **Bad News Brown** an entry at number six in the Most Hated ratings.

Not including **Barry Windham**, who surely won't receive any shots at **Ric Flair**, the top contenders for the NWA World title are: **Sting**, **Eddie Gilbert**, **Lex Luger**, and **Rick Steiner** ... **Dusty Rhodes** has spent most of his time in tag team matches and drops four spots to number 10 in the NWA; of course, a Flair-Rhodes feud renewal could occur at any time ... **Junkyard Dog** won the first Bunkhouse Stampede and makes his NWA debut at number nine ... **Mike Rotundo** lost the TV belt but, because of Rhodes' drop, moves up a notch. Ironically, Steiner won the title but drops two spots to number five, simply because he's now less likely to get shots at Flair.

Bad News Brown leapfrogs three spots to number two in the WWF ratings. Not including Intercontinental champ **The Ultimate Warrior**, the top contenders to Savage's title are: **Brown**, **Big Bossman**, **Andre the Giant**, and **King Haku** ... **The Honky Tonk Man** is stuck at number six ... No movement for **Curt Hennig** can actually be interpreted as a step back; he's stuck at number 10 when he should be moving up every month.

The top contenders for the AWA World title are: **Kerry Von Erich**, **Greg Gagne**, and **Dutch Mantel** ... Gagne won the TV title from **Ronnie Garvin** and inherits the automatic number-one spot ... **Sgt. Slaughter** won his match at SuperClash III and moves up three spots to number seven ... **The Iron Sheik** has invaded the AWA and debuts at number five.

Turnaround of the year: **Cactus Jack** was virtually unknown in early 1988; now he's World Class light heavyweight champ (disputed, however, because Jack weighs 247 pounds) and number three in the ratings ... **Don Muraco** won the Stampede North American title from **Makhan Singh**. Singh drops to number two; Muraco was at eight last month ... **Wendell Cooley** won the CWA title from **Sid Vicious**, who drops to number three ... **Rick Morton** has increased his singles schedule and debuts in the CWA ratings at number nine ... **Brad Armstrong** earned a shot at CWF champ **Tom Prichard** and moves up four spots to number one.

The poop on Portland. Pacific Northwest Wrestling, this month's entry in the revolving ratings, is not as well known as some other federations, but presents some of the finest wrestling in the country. **Top Gun** is the champion and **Col. DeBeers** recently invaded the area. Other top stars include veterans **The Grappler**, **Buddy Rose**, and **Al Madril**.

That's all, folks. But we'd love to hear what you think about Tracking Trends, and anything else that might be on your mind—ratings related, of course. Send your comments to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *Sports Review Wrestling*; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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